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**Holocaust remembered**  
Holocaust survivors David Monk (left) and Mordechai Fuchs prepare to lay a wreath at the memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem yesterday. Reports, Page 3.

## Israel to offer gestures to PA

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, BATSHEVA TSUR, and HILLEL KUTTLER

The government is expected by diplomatic sources to adopt a more flexible policy and propose a number of gestures to the Palestinians.

Netanyahu met with Weizman last night to lay the groundwork for the president's meeting with Arafat. The meeting was arranged with the active participation of the US, whose special Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, is to arrive tomorrow.

with Arafat, including sessions with cabinet secretary Danny Navah and Netanyahu's confidant and envoy, attorney Yitzhak Molcho.

**Israel, Jordan to build peace park at Naharayim, Page 2**  
**Abu Marzook arrives in Jordan, Page 2**

For the first time since the crisis in the peace talks following Israel's decision to build in Jerusalem's Har Homa, Israel appears to be softening its tone, as diplomatic sources reported that gestures and confidence-building measures are now being hammered out in Jerusalem. These include consultations with the Americans and large-scale construction for Palestinians including Jerusalem and the PA airport in Dahaniya.

At Netanyahu's request, Molcho will join the president and his bureau chief, Arye Shumer, at the meeting, which is to be attended from the Palestinian side by Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed Rabbo, and Ahmed Tibi. The president is also to meet privately with Arafat.

in an effort to resume the peace process.

A breakthrough with the Palestinians, after several weeks of complete severance between the sides, is hoped to be achieved at the meeting between President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat this evening at the Israeli side of the Erez checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

Weizman also consulted with Mordcheai, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon, Foreign Minister David Levy, and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

"We are very optimistic. We hope the president will break the ice and get the process back on track," one of the senior Israeli officials planning the visit said yesterday.

Weizman appears to be determined to play more than a merely formal role and get results out of his meeting with Arafat, which will lead to the resumption of negotiations. Yesterday, he held a series of meetings in preparation for his talk

Everything is being done in coordination with the prime minister," Shumer said.

Meanwhile, Ross is to leave for Israel tonight and begin meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials tomorrow, US administration officials confirmed yesterday. The US peace process team is delaying its arrival by a day in order not to overshadow the Weizman-Arafat meeting.

A US official said he hopes the summit gets the Ross mission off to a "good start," but does not expect Weizman and Arafat to produce a breakthrough.

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**COMMENT**

## Tragedies beyond number

By JOEL REBIBO

Numbers don't mean much when it comes to tragedies, be they on the scale of the Holocaust or mere national plagues like traffic fatalities. Six million? How much more grief and horror can we muster up for six million than we can for five million, or four? How many were killed on our roads last year? How many children orphaned? How many people crippled? Numbers numb. They mean nothing, because at a certain point the senses shut down, just as the body goes into shock when the pain gets too great.

him. He didn't have a chance. His wife, who underwent surgery for a broken spine on Sunday night, is fighting for her life; two children are with her in the hospital - one with a broken pelvis, who needs surgery, and another with a broken jaw and an injured foot.

His son, the 12-year-old who recited kaddish for his father in a remarkably steady voice yesterday, came out with "light" injuries. Two other young children are at home, failing to comprehend why their parents still haven't come back from Jerusalem.

Shmuel, who immigrated from the US, was an extremist, in the positive sense of the word. A rabbi who taught in the Shvut Yisrael hesder yeshiva, combining Torah study and army service, he was known for his fanatic devotion to his students.

"When we were in the army, he

called our homes every week to see how we were and to ask if we needed anything," said Yossi, 21, from Tel Aviv. "When students were stationed at Har Gillo, he'd bring them pizza and soft drinks. He had as many as eight guys over for dinner at a time... He wouldn't think twice about lending his car out to students. He gave of himself totally."

He was equally uncompromising when it came to his pursuit of excellence in Torah scholarship.

"He was already in the study hall at 6:20 a.m. when people gathered for the early morning *daf yomi* Talmud lesson, and he was there as late as 10 p.m.," said Rafi Roness, a colleague at the yeshiva.

I knew Shmuel from the years before he began teaching in Efrat. We studied Talmud together, or rather he taught me, and I once needed his help in footnoting a book I was editing on Judaism. His recall was incredible. He was

able to instantly locate the source of just about any Jewish saying or idea.

Incredibly, for a scholar of his caliber, he was able to study with the widest possible range of people, from children of new immigrants to adults pressed for time who wanted quality learning at odd hours of the day. One former student at the funeral had been kicked out of a long list of schools, and Shmuel studied with him for several months until he was able to gain admission to one of the top schools in Jerusalem.

"How are you, my friend?" was his traditional greeting.

On Sunday morning, he was bringing the parchments for the tefillin of his son, Shlomi, to a scribe to be inserted in their leather boxes. Shmuel won't be there for his son's bar mitzva and the lives of his wife and children will be forever changed, because a dump truck swerved out of control.

## Manbar indicted

By RAINE MARCUS

International businessman and arms dealer Nahum Manbar, 51, was indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday on charges of espionage, selling arms to a hostile state, and assisting a country at war with Israel.

Manbar, who insists that all arms deals with Iran were conducted with the government's knowledge, will remain in custody until his trial.

Manbar was charged with selling chemical warfare substances to Iran. His lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, said his client maintains his innocence.

According to the indictment, parts of which were classified, Manbar, a former paratroop officer, met with Dr. Majid Abasfor in or around 1990, via an Iranian intermediary, dubbed Hashmi. At the time, Abasfor was the head of the Iranian government's chemical warfare program.

Abasfor asked Manbar to pro-

vide Iran with chemicals and other materials used to produce chemical weapons, and to train a team



Nahum Manbar (Israel Sun)

work in factories there. A contract was signed, and from 1990 to 1994, Manbar fulfilled it. By mid-1994, Manbar had received \$16 million from the Iranians for his services.

Manbar, the indictment said, provided the Iranians with material to manufacture nerve and mustard gas.

## PA returns car of Meretz councilman

By ELI WOHLGELERNTER

Talk about friends in high places.

Less than 48 hours after Jerusalem City Councilman Oman Yekutieli (Meretz) had his car stolen, thanks to the help of Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub.

When Yekutieli discovered on Sunday morning that his three-year-old car was gone, he started calling friends in eastern Jerusalem, a doctor and a teacher, for help.

It was not so much the car that bothered him, he said.

"I had my briefcase in the car, with all the papers I have in the world - lists of names, activists, donors - everything. I was totally hysterical. I said if they find who has the car, tell them they can keep it, just give me back my briefcase."

"They started calling everyone they knew, and soon enough it was in the hands of Jibril Rajoub. The story spread so fast, that at every checkpoint of the

PA people were looking for the car.

"In the afternoon I got a message that they found the car, so I called Rajoub and thanked him. He said when we have a really normal peace between our two societies, then we'll have coordination between our police forces all the time, and this will be a regular occurrence in these kinds of cases."

Yekutieli knows how lucky he was, considering the statistics on stolen cars.

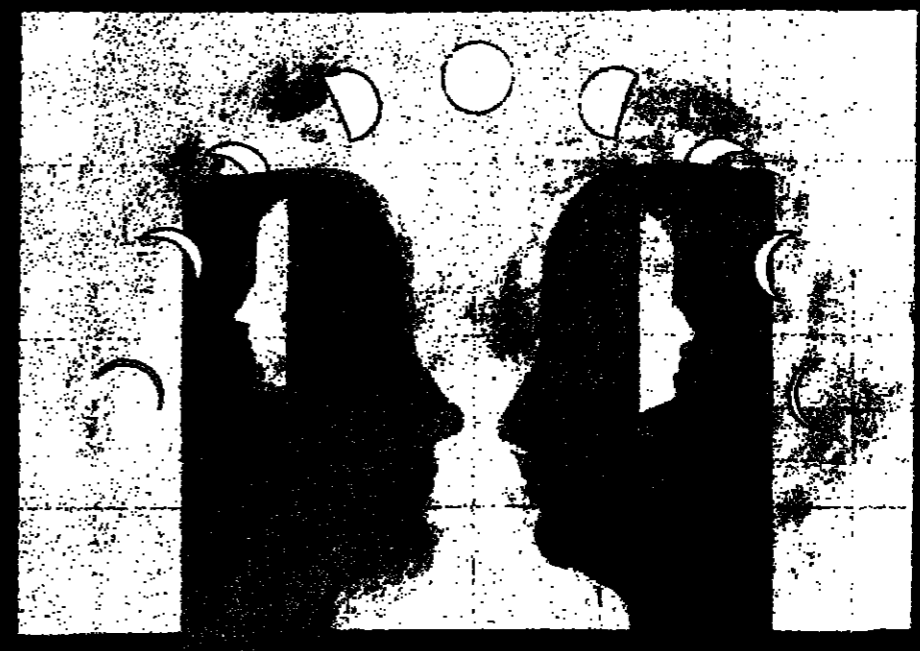
"I think it was luck, and good connections - part of the fact is that I'm well known in eastern Jerusalem. I have a column in *Al-Kuds*," he said.

When he went to Bethlehem yesterday afternoon to pick up the car, "they had fixed the ignition, and gave me a new key, because the thieves had broken it. And that's the story."

What about the important briefcase?

Yekutieli laughed. "They took the briefcase, and my ID, but they emptied most of the papers on the back seat."

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# NEWS

*in brief*

## Panel revokes Schnitzer's Israel Prize

The Israel Prize Committee last night retracted its decision to grant the Israel Prize for Journalism to Ma'ariv journalist Shmuel Schnitzer. The vote in the committee was 2-1. The High Court of Justice had ruled that the committee should reconsider its decision in light of a racist article written by Schnitzer condemning the aliyah of the Falash Mura, for which he was censured by the National Federation of Israeli Journalists. The committee said it would not grant a prize for print journalism this year. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Palestinian with bomb material arrested

A Palestinian from the Jenin area was arrested in a Haifa marketplace on Sunday with a bag containing a pipe, timing device, and matches, which can be used to make a bomb. Police will bring the man, 26, before the Haifa Magistrate's Court this morning for a remand hearing. *Itim*

## PA policeman kills Palestinian man

A Palestinian policeman shot dead a Palestinian man at a roadblock in Hebron yesterday, Palestinian sources said. The victim was named as 29-year-old Issam Mohammed Gate. *Reuter*

## Palestinian Authority releases lawyer from jail

Jameel Salameh, the Gaza lawyer arrested for trying to publish an article in the Gaza Bar Association Journal comparing the Israeli and Palestinian judicial systems, was released Sunday. The article implied the PA should be investigated, including the way appointments are made by Chairman Yasser Arafat. PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein justified Salameh's arrest by noting that, in his five-hour interrogation, "he admitted being connected to the Islamic Jihad and had an Islamic Jihad membership card." The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group pointed out that even if true, being an Islamic Jihad member is not a crime in Gaza. *Jon Immanuel*

## Four arrested in connection with murder

Police yesterday arrested four people in connection with the murder under mysterious circumstances over a year ago of Israeli Navy sailor Arik Maman not far from his home in Migdal Ha'emek. The suspects, detained for questioning in accordance with a court order, are his wife Sigal, 29, her brother, and their parents. *David Rudge*

## Colombian president visiting

Colombian President Ernesto Samper, who also serves as chairman of the Non-Aligned Nations, arrived yesterday evening. He is the first president of Colombia to visit, and was accompanied by Foreign Minister Maria Velez and Foreign Trade Minister Carlos Torres. Samper is to meet with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and Foreign Minister David Levy. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Austrian FM arrives tomorrow

Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schüssel is to arrive tomorrow on an official visit. He is to hold talks with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and Foreign Minister David Levy. The talks will focus on the peace process and bilateral cooperation. Schüssel is also to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Council for jubilee celebrations has 1st meeting

The public council for the state's fiftieth anniversary celebrations had its first meeting in Tel Aviv last night. The 72-member council, which includes mayors, former ministers, and retired IDF officers, will work with the ministerial committee on ceremonies and symbols to implement events in honor of the jubilee. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## ORT head calls for more computers in schools

The Education Ministry should adopt a policy of computerizing classrooms, with at least one computer for every three to five pupils, instead of just having a computer lab for one class at a time, according to Haim Ben-Ami, director-general of the ORT school system. The ministry now aims at one computer for every 10 pupils, he said. Although this is a more progressive figure than most countries, placing large numbers of PCs in the classroom will ensure that every graduate is at ease using a computer, Ben-Ami said. *Judy Siegel*

## Lev el Lev fundraiser today

Lev el Lev (Heart to Heart) Israel is holding its annual fundraising drive today and tomorrow. The voluntary organization devotes its efforts to informing the public how to avoid heart disease and save lives with cardiopulmonary resuscitation. It disseminates its message through the educational system, the local authorities, and the security forces. *Judy Siegel*

## Abu Marzook arrives in Jordan from US

AMMAN (AP) - Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook arrived in Jordan yesterday, ending 21 months in detention in the United States for violating immigration laws. A Hamas official said the former chief of the Hamas political bureau "arrived here safely." Reached by telephone in the US, Abu Marzook's wife, Nadia Ashy, declined to reveal any details about her husband's release, saying that American authorities would not inform her on his release for "security reasons." Jordan's government said last week that King Hussein had agreed to receive Abu Marzook in the kingdom on humanitarian grounds. On Saturday, Hamas spokesman Mohammed Nazzal said Abu Marzook had agreed to surrender his US residency and not reclaim it in the future as part of an agreement with US authorities, setting the stage for his deportation to Jordan. Abu Marzook was detained in the US for violating immigration laws. Israel recently dropped its request for his extradition as a suspect in 10 terrorist attacks from 1990 to 1994 that killed 47 people. A US resident for 15 years, Abu Marzook was detained in July 1995 when he reentered the US because his name had been put on a list of suspected terrorists. He has admitted to leading Hamas's political wing, but he insists he was not involved with the group's military wing, which has claimed responsibility for the anti-Israeli attacks.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of **MIA ZUCKERMAN** on Monday, May 5, 1997. She bequeathed her body to science. **Family and Friends**

# IDF, Turkey, US finalize joint exercise

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IDF, Turkish, and US officers met at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday to wrap up details for a joint, three-way naval exercise, most likely this summer, in the Mediterranean. The meeting took place during the strategic dialogue with a Turkish military delegation led by Turkish Deputy Chief of Staff Chevik Bir.

According to Defense Ministry officials, the joint maneuvers will be "of a humanitarian nature and focus on a search-and-rescue scenario." Reports from Turkey that they were aimed at Iran and Syria were dismissed by officials here.

Bir's visit comes after last week's visit by Turkish Defense Minister Tarhan Tayan and is expected to further enhance the strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The Turkish delegation consisted of 23 military officials, including intelligence officers, and discussions focused on fighting terror and, for the first time, the threats from Iran and Syria.

It is the second of the strategic meetings. Last November, an Israeli delegation headed by David Ivry, special adviser to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, went to Turkey for the first session.

Mordechai told the Turkish officers that he has no doubt the cooperation will strengthen the stability of the Middle East. He said he wants to increase and deepen the links, so that the defense establishments of Israel and Turkey can be aided by each other's experience. Bir told Mordechai that Turkey wants to increase and widen



Turkish Deputy Chief of Staff Chevik Bir (left) is greeted by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday. (Ronen Engel/Israel Sun)

strategic cooperation. Prior to the meeting, the Turkish officers toured Israel Aircraft Industries, where 54 Turkish Air Force F-4s are being upgraded. Israel is currently bidding to upgrade 48 Turkish F-5s. The Turks were also taken on a tour of the factory that produces

the Merkava tank. Bir later told Mordechai that he and his generals were very impressed. "We heard, learned, and saw advanced high technology and the special ability in almost every military area, and all of them were the fruits of Israeli development," Bir said.

Praising the plans for the joint naval exercise, Mordechai told Bir that he is placing great importance on them and had raised the matter with the Americans during his US visit last month. Planning procedures were discussed and ideas exchanged on details of the maneuvers, Israeli officials said.

Bir later told reporters that he looks warmly upon the naval exercises and said they are open to any other nation that wants to participate. Kir is to visit Hebron this morning, where he is to meet with 17 Turkish officers serving with the international observer force.

## PA introduces death penalty for selling land to Israelis

By JON IMMANUEL

The Palestinian Authority plans to try Palestinians who sell land to Israelis, including land inside the Green Line, using a Jordanian law which permits the death penalty, PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said yesterday.

Abu Medein said the severe measures have become necessary, because "after what happened at Jabal Abu Gheini [Har Homa] it has become clear that the Israeli government looks at all property sold by Arabs to Jews as conferring Israeli sovereignty."

According to the government, 70 percent of the land in the Har Homa building project was purchased by Jews before 1948 and after 1967.

"If we say owning land means sovereignty, then Palestinians own 90 percent of the land in Palestine, including private land in Jaffa, Ramle, and Lod," Abu Medein said. "This land belongs to refugees and must not be sold, because refugees are to be discussed in final status talks and they must decide whether to return to their land or receive compensation."

"We are not ready to accept Israelis buying land in the Naqab [Negev] either. These brokers are thieves. Many Arabs in Israel are selling property which is not theirs, but belongs to relatives who are refugees abroad. If their land is sold, how will they show they have a right to compensation?"

During the intifada, the PLO gave direct orders to kill some well known land dealers who sold West Bank land. The most famous, Ahmed Oudeh, was gunned down in Kalkilya.

Under a law used by Jordan during the intifada, Jordanian courts tried in absentia some 200 Palestinian

property dealers from the West Bank. The PA has a list of all these people, Abu Medein said.

Currently, three dealers are being investigated by the PA public prosecutor. "We will be very tough in implementing Jordanian law on this," Abu Medein said.

Jordanian law is not binding in Gaza, but there has been only one recent case of a Gazan selling property there to Jews. This involved an old woman who sold a 400 sq.m. house in Gush Katif. She is now living inside Israel, Abu Medein said.

"The whole problem is that property should be for private ownership. If the Israeli government accepted that the purchase of Palestinian property did not annul Palestinian political rights over the land, that would be acceptable," Abu Medein said.

He said he has evidence that Israelis are approaching Palestinians as far away as Chile and Ecuador to purchase land.

Five Palestinians are currently under sentence of death in Palestinian jails for murder and rape, but no one has been executed and it is considered unlikely that a property dealer would be judicially executed either.

Lit Collins adds: Likud MKs Maxim Levy, Meir Sheerit, and Ruby Rivlin have signed on the bill being proposed by Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein to limit the government's right to rescind the Israeli identity cards of east Jerusalem residents.

Under the bill, the interior minister would not be able to rescind the residence permit of a person without a nationality, unless convinced the person is likely to harm state security.

## Israel, Jordan to dedicate peace park at Naharayim

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and news agencies

Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan will not attend today's memorial at Naharayim for the seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls killed by a Jordanian soldier on March 13, a Jordanian palace official said yesterday.

"We never said the crown prince would be going; he is not going," the palace official told Reuters, adding that the ceremony would be attended by lower-level Jordanian officials.

Israeli officials had said that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Hassan would attend the ceremony. They also said the two were to meet in a specially erected tent for a diplomatic discussion.

After the ceremony, which will include the dedication of a hill of flowers in memory of

the girls, Jordan and Israel are to announce the establishment of a joint peace park to be built at the site, known as the Island of Peace until the murderous incident occurred.

Ambassador to Jordan Oded Eran, who took office yesterday, told Israel Radio there is disenchantment in Jordan over the three-year-old peace accord, and expectations of "more tangible" economic results.

Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali said yesterday his country would attend a mini-summit proposed by Egypt to help restart the peace process.

"We welcome President Hosni Mubarak's initiative to convene a summit of four leaders to bring the peace process back on track and we are eager to attend," told reporters after official talks in Doha, Qatar. "We think a summit of this nature is important at this critical juncture."

## Third Way: Gov't to change ways

By SARAH HONG

Significant changes in the government's functioning are imminent, Third Way MK Yehuda Harel said last night, following a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The Third Way's Knesset faction urged Netanyahu that "attacks on the police, press, and prosecution cease, that the peace process continue, and that the conversion bill be shelved." The four Third Way MKs who participated in the meeting stressed that none of their demands was an ultimatum.

After the meeting, Harel expressed confidence that "the government's functioning would indeed change. I base this not only on our latest conversation, but also on previous ones. We had very firm, and I believe sincere, pledges and I know that great and highly significant changes are under way." MK Emanuel Zissman reported that his faction's MKs told Netanyahu that "unless repairs were made to the way the government operates, then we would find it impossible to continue as part of the coalition." Harel's talk about impending changes follows similar predictions from industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky of Yisrael Ba'aliya, whose party demanded similar changes. A change in the government's ways could mean an impending cabinet reshuffle. This could hinge on the outcome of the trial of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman. Should he be acquitted, this would facilitate a portfolio swap for Netanyahu. He would then be able to remove Tzahi Hanegbi from the Justice Ministry and hand it back to Ne'eman.

## PM asked to foot bill at Swiss luxury hotel

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, is demanding Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu pay for his personal expenses at the luxurious Seehof Hotel in Davos, Switzerland, at the beginning of the year. The hotel sent a bill for SFr 75,652 (NIS 174,000) for the Israeli mission's stay there during the economic conference.

Cohen sent copies of the invoice to the Treasury and Foreign Ministry, demanding to know who covered the bill.

He noted yesterday that the personal excesses of Netanyahu and his family cost far more than the mission's work expenses. Thus, hiring a photocopier and fax, telephone bills, and hiring a meeting room came to SFr 4,110, while the rental of sports and ski

## Two SLA soldiers wounded in security zone

By DAVID RUDGE

Two South Lebanese Army soldiers and three civilians were wounded yesterday in two roadside bomb attacks not far from Marjayoun in the security zone.

In the first attack, a bomb was detonated alongside a car carrying three civilians. A few minutes later, a second device exploded near the SLA vehicle, which went to the scene to assist the casualties.

The wounded, who were all said to have been lightly hurt, were taken to nearby Marjayoun Hospital.

Israel yesterday lodged a complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the bombing attack in view of the fact that civilians were also wounded. The five-member committee that was established to supervise the understandings reached at the end of the fighting last April is to meet tomorrow to discuss Israel's complaint. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying it had demonstrated its capabilities by detonating two devices deep in the zone, only a few kilometers from the "Lebanon-Palestine" border.

<b>WORLD MACHAL MEMORIAL MEETING</b>	
<b>SUNDAY, MAY 11, 10:30AM</b>	
<b>SHA'AR HAGAI MACHAL MEMORIAL</b>	
all friends are welcome to honor the memory of 118 fallen comrades in Machal and Atyah Bet	
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party also... Mr. Suharto

# Knesset mourns child Holocaust victims

By LIAT COLLINS

Against the backdrop of the Chagall tapestry depicting the history of the Jewish people, the Knesset yesterday held its annual "Every person has a name" ceremony marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, the chief rabbis and other dignitaries attended.

At the end of the ceremony, a Torah scroll in memory of the children who perished in the Holocaust was dedicated in the Knesset's synagogue, in what Netanyahu described as an act symbolizing the continuation of the Jewish people and its history.

Netanyahu also announced his intention to travel to Birkenau next year with Israeli children and IDF soldiers to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the State of Israel and give expression to the greatest victory of any people - the victory against all the laws of history.

He called on survivors to submit their testimonies to Yad Vashem.

At the beginning of the Knesset ceremony, a special six-branched candelabrum, signifying the six million who died, was lit. A children's choir sang "Eil, Eil," written by Hanna Szenes, the Jewish parachutist from the Yishuv captured and killed by the Germans.

The Knesset ceremony, like others around the country, was dedicated to the theme of children in the Holocaust. Tichon opened with the chilling account of children taken from Auschwitz to Hamburg, where they continued to be subjected to "medical" experiments. They were killed 18 days before the end of the war in Europe.

"Their world was a cold one of torture," he said. "Each one of these children had a name. And they will never be forgotten."

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron read Kaddish, "for those who could not recite for their parents, and those parents who could not recite for their children."

As was done at ceremonies around the globe yesterday, one by one, the officials read out the names of children whose lives were cut short, in misery, forever

aged two, three, five or 10.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Meir Lau recalled his own experiences as a six-year-old, trying to look older, and making his first public speech to persuade a new labor camp commandant that he was fit to work and worth saving. He told how his brother, Naftali Lavie, constantly protected him, carrying him into Buchenwald in a sack so they wouldn't be parted. He told of an encounter with a Gentile Czech doctor, who saved his life by reducing the dose of an injection. And he recounted how he searched the walking skeletons that left Bergen-Belsen to try to find his mother.

"To this day, I still search. I will never find my mother, but I have found a home and homeland," he said.

Former Knesset speaker Dov Shilansky, who initiated the "Every person has a name" project, told how he could not read out the names of all the children he had known and played with "who were sent to Auschwitz, crying, 'Mama! Ich will leben!' [Mummy, I want to live.] And the world heard and was silent."

Another former speaker, Shevah Weiss, recalled the children he had known in his Polish village, most of whom were killed in the local slaughterhouse, hanged on meat hooks. He, too, recalled the skeletal people around him and said: "That's why I can't keep quiet when I see the child skeletons of Rwanda."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai read the names of Baghdad children who died. Labor Party Secretary General Nissim Zivili said his family had been saved by Arabs who had smuggled them from their south Tunisian village to a safer place in the heart of the country. Maj-Gen. (res.) Yossi Peled also spoke of the Righteous Gentiles in Belgium who had saved him and raised him until his mother returned from Auschwitz.

MK Maxim Levy (Gesher) called for unity between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews. His brother, Foreign Minister David Levy, speaking before the installation of the Torah scroll, said that, although the children had died in the Holocaust, "the holy letters of their names hover all around us."



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu carries a Torah that is being installed in the Knesset synagogue yesterday, in memory of the children murdered in the Holocaust, as Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon looks on.

## AMCHA hot line receives hundreds of calls

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Haunted by the voices of the past, hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families found an empathetic ear yesterday in the AMCHA staffers manning the organization's hot line.

Ready to simply hear their stories, or help them get through a particularly difficult day, the staff at AMCHA - the National Israeli Center for Psychological Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation - ignored budgetary difficulties to make callers feel they had reached what veteran staffer Ruth Gruschka called "home."

Inspired by what AMCHA director-general John Lemberger referred to as "emotional triggers," such as the massive offerings regarding the Holocaust on television, hundreds of calls were fielded in AMCHA's four offices and at similar centers in Netanya and Kfar Sava set up with AMCHA's help.

In a normal week, they generally receive a dozen or so calls. Lemberger said Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day is "the one day that we have the greatest influx of clients." They are offered services ranging from individual counseling to group, family, or couple therapy, or documentation of their story.

Many were calling "because they want everyone to know their story," explained Tali Brin, who was manning the phones in Jerusalem yesterday morning. "Some specifically mention programs they've seen about the Holocaust. They say: 'Where did they get my story from?' Some said they feel like every day is Holocaust Remembrance Day, that it's something that never ends. But this day is their day, and people take notice of them today."

Others just wanted someone to listen, as in the case of one survivor "who just told me his entire life story. Our job is to listen, because the moment you cut someone off, they lose their train of thought. So I listened to him, and let him have this catharsis that he needed. Then he felt better." Brin explained.

Gruschka got a different kind of call, which she said was also typical. It was from a woman whose father was a survivor. Holocaust Remembrance

Day is "difficult for me," she explained to Gruschka, telling her that her father would rarely speak about his experiences, and that she wanted to know more about how her father's siblings had "been destroyed."

"On a day like this, she said, she is more aware of her suffering," Gruschka explained. "When she used the word 'destroyed,' I understood that she is also psychologically prepared to confront what happened, however painful. And this, on a day like this, comes more to the fore than on other days, and it's easier for people to permit themselves to use such a hot line. They feel less embarrassed."

Gruschka explained to the woman that sometimes parents have difficulty talking about their experiences because they are afraid they will be overwhelmed by their emotions, or want to protect their children.

AMCHA's services are under pressure because of the government's decision last year to cut funding to the organization, which received some NIS 600,000 in 1996. Lemberger says the cut threatens the organization's work, but he is "cautiously optimistic" the government will see that the cuts are hurting Israel's image abroad.

"The budget has a financial element, but also a moral element," he says. The cuts also upset the survivors, who see them as an example of how the state does not properly address their needs.

Meanwhile, AMCHA has widened its services to include a chat and subscription news group on the Internet, where survivors can create a cyber-support group for each other. Dr. Natan Kellerman, the chief psychologist for the Jerusalem office, said this week's initial chat session raised several interesting issues, including how to mark the Holocaust during the Pessah Seder.

The AMCHA website can be found at <http://www.amcha.org>

Yesterday, however, it was the phone lines that were providing the essential link with survivors.

AMCHA hot line numbers:  
Jerusalem: (02) 625-0634, 625-0745, 624-7367, 623-3644  
Tel Aviv: (03) 566-5701/2/3  
Haifa: (04) 837-5649  
Beersheba: (07) 627-0224



Motorists stand at attention in Jerusalem yesterday during the two-minute siren marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which sounded throughout the country at 10 a.m. Immediately afterward, national ceremonies began, including at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, where wreaths were laid at Warsaw Ghetto Square by President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, representatives of Holocaust survivors and schoolchildren.

## Swiss bank whistle-blower seeks new life in US

ZURICH (Reuters) - A night watchman who lost his job after blowing the whistle on a Swiss bank's shredding of old documents amid the search for Holocaust accounts has told a newspaper he has gone to the US to escape death threats and find a job.

"I would prefer to stay in Switzerland, but the people in my country don't understand me," Christoph Meili told the Swiss daily *Le Nouveau Quotidien* from New York in an interview published yesterday. "I am being treated like a criminal."

Meili smuggled documents bound for the shredder out of Union Bank of Switzerland in January and gave them to Zurich Jewish leaders, who alerted prosecutors to a possible violation of a ban on destroying any material that could help find unclaimed wealth.

Meili, who is married and has two children, was suspended from his job by the security firm for which he worked, and later sacked.

UBS says the destruction of old records from a subsidiary it acquired in 1945 was a "regrettable accident" and that no client records were lost that could aid the search for missing assets that Hitler's victims may have deposited in Swiss banks.

Jewish groups hailed Meili, 28, as a hero and held him up as a model of moral courage. But the incident could trigger criminal charges against him of violating banking secrecy. "I don't really feel safe any more," Meili said, noting one

survey found most Swiss did not approve of his action. "We received death threats against us and the children."

Meili said he hoped allies like New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato and the World Jewish Congress could help him make a new life in the US.

In January, the Anti-

Defamation League of B'nai B'rith presented Meili with a golden menorah and \$34,000 to help him cover living expenses and legal fees, but Meili said he had not seen a cent of the money. "All I know is that my lawyer has used part of it for my defense," he said.

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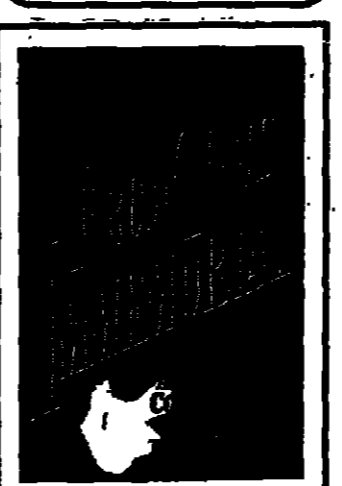
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Persons bearing weapons, including soldiers, will not be allowed into the cemeteries.

# Health fund revision proposed

Fiscal autonomy, British-style options discussed

By DAVID HARRIS and JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry and Treasury have entered negotiations ahead of a complete shake-up of the health funds, State Budget Director David Milgrom said yesterday.

But Health Minister Yehoshua Matza described Milgrom's statements as an "empty balloon." He denied the two ministries see eye-to-eye on "nationalizing the public health system and health funds" and/or reducing the basket of health services.

While ruling out the repeal of the 1995 National Health Insurance Law, Milgrom said two proposals are being discussed: the establishment of a government health authority, similar to the British National Health Service, or granting financial independence to the health funds, giving them greater responsibility and flexibility.

The second option is favored by Milgrom.

Both ministries are highly concerned at the state of health services currently being offered, according to Milgrom. "The current situation cannot be allowed to continue," he said. "The [1995] law has proven to be a regressive change, turning the health pyra-

mid on its head."

The universal health insurance system is leading to poorer efficiency, increased taxes, and inferior health care standards in some areas, he added. All too often the government has to bail the health funds out.

While the Treasury is concerned by expenditures on the so-called basket of health services, the Health Ministry is in protracted negotiations to increase the health budget.

The current law stipulates that if the basket becomes more expensive than the money raised from taxation, the government will meet the shortfall. This amounts to some NIS 2 billion, seen by the Treasury as a huge burden when it is considering making an additional budget cut.

Speaking from Geneva, where he is attending the World Health Assembly, Matza vigorously denied the Treasury claims. "It is a balloon empty of content, behind which apparently stands a consistent and continuing intention by the Finance Ministry to revoke the National Health Insurance Law," he said.

The Treasury has "intentionally dragged out" for six months discussions with the Health Ministry that are supposed to heal the health system, while adding effi-

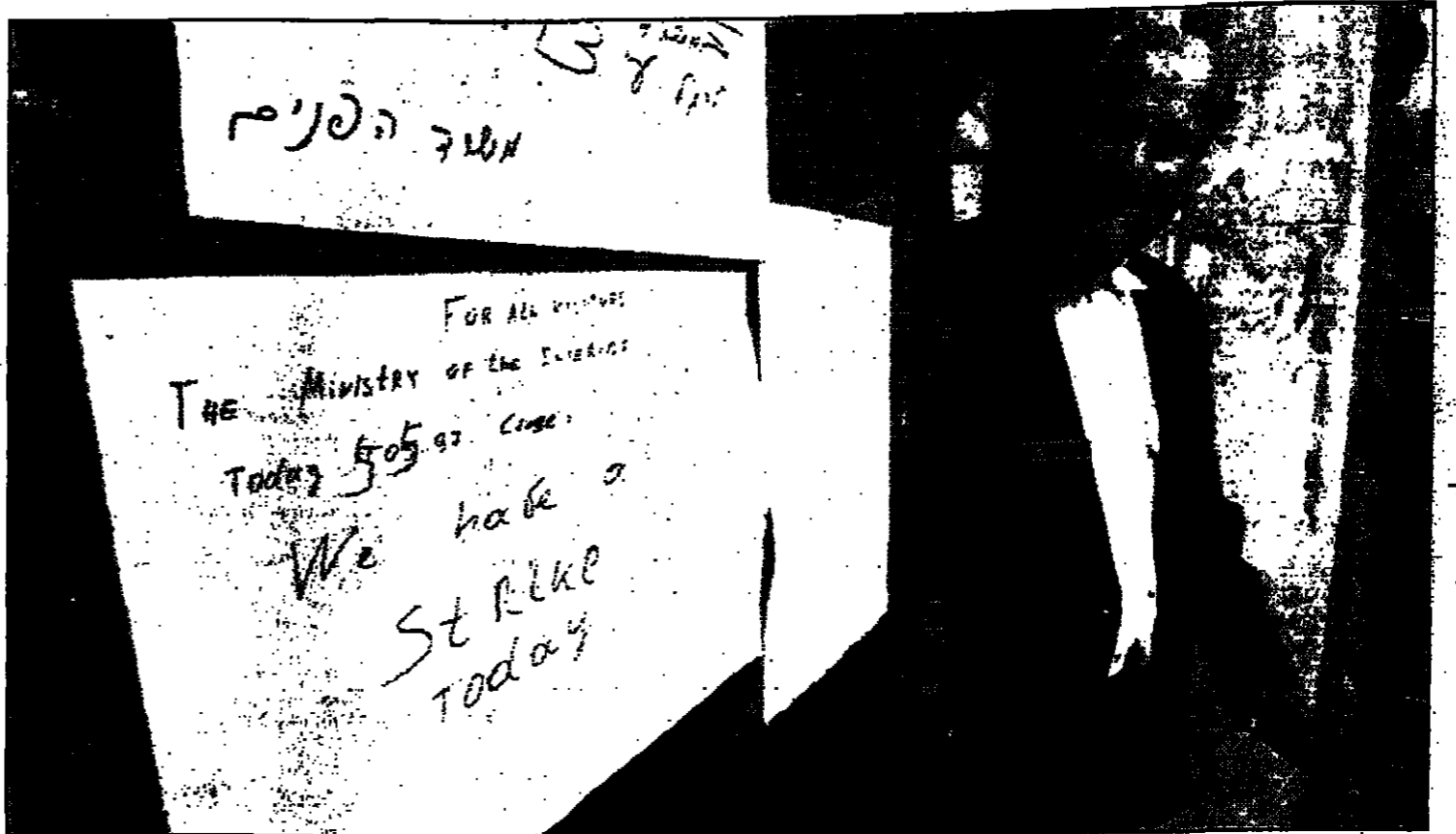
ciency measures and supplying more income, he said.

"The Finance Ministry has purposely delayed for four months the transfer of government subsidies to the health funds and thereby dragged them into deficits that threaten to bring about the collapse of the health system," Matza declared.

He said he would raise the whole issue with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu immediately after his return.

Meanwhile, a Telesaker poll, commissioned by the Phoenix insurance company, has found that 13 percent of the public claim they did not receive medical services and drugs to which they were entitled from their health fund. The health funds, they said, claimed they were not entitled to such treatment under the National Health Insurance Law.

Forty percent of those polled are willing to purchase private health insurance if it costs less than NIS 100 a month, Telesaker said. Today, 9.3% of the population has a private supplementary health insurance policy, compared to only 3% in 1992; this is in addition to the supplementary health insurance offered by their health fund, to which 42% of the public subscribes to.



Security guard Asher Nahum keeps watch yesterday at the Interior Ministry's downtown Jerusalem office, which has been closed since last Wednesday by a labor dispute. (Brian Hender)

# Civil servants step up sanctions

By UREEL NEILMAN

Some 10,000 civil servants stepped up their sanctions yesterday, frustrating thousands seeking to use government ministries' services, which have been halted since last Wednesday as a result of a salary dispute.

Those suffering most, maintained one agitated Jerusalemite, are people who need the services urgently, such as those who need to renew their passports to travel abroad or acquire drivers' licenses.

According to Asher Nahum, a security guard at the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem, dozens of

citizens, many of whom were unaware of the sanctions, showed up at the building yesterday morning. Others who came were hoping that they could convince officials to make an exception for them.

Officials at the various ministries say they are only handling emergencies.

"There is a committee that deals with exceptional, life-or-death cases. In these cases, people must show us doctor's orders," said Hana Oren of the Interior Ministry.

The committee has renewed the passport of a woman with pregnancy complications so that she could leave the country and receive necessary medical treatment, Oren said.

However, a group of 63 Catholic pilgrims from India that was supposed to arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport on Saturday was denied entrance into the country because the office that issues entry visas

has been closed since the middle of last week.

Israelis who want to leave the country have encountered similar problems. Ya'akov Avidahr said that, because of the sanctions, he cannot even pull out of his driveway.

"I didn't even know there was a strike," he said after being told the Interior Ministry was closed. "I passed my driving test yesterday and I need to get my license and renew my national identity card."

Eva Ben-David has plans to leave for Holland on a family vacation in three weeks, though her trip has been thrown into jeopardy due to the sanctions that have prevented her from acquiring a passport for her four-month-old child.

"Normally there wouldn't be any problem," she said, "but I guess I'll just have to wait and see how long it will take."

# Conversion bill yields New Israel Fund support

By HAIM SHAPIRO

In the past year, contributions to the New Israel Fund have increased by 20 percent, apparently as a reaction to the controversy over the conversion bill, which would deny recognition to Reform and Conservative conversion in Israel, NIF director Norman Rosenberg said.

But he is not happy about this. "Trouble in Israel is not good news for us," said Rosenberg.

The NIF, founded in California in 1978, is a supporter of a wide range of Israeli causes, including advocacy for Ethiopian immigrants, civil rights for Israeli Arabs, and women's rights, as well as religious pluralism.

The organization, Rosenberg insisted, is not an alternative to Jewish federation campaigns, although some may perceive it as such. A recent donor survey found that 65 percent of NIF contributors also gave to the federations, and for many that was their main contribution.

However, Rosenberg added, it is no secret that support for Israel is hurting as a result of the conversion bill, which passed its first reading a month ago.

"Day after day we hear people say that it is harder to get support for Israel with this issue around," Rosenberg said.

Menachem Revivi, Israel director of the UJA, admitted that American Jews are very concerned and frustrated over the issue, but said he had no figures at this point which would show whether this had led to a drop in contributions.

"The UJA is trying to say that we

understand and that people should remain involved so that they can continue to influence [Israel] in the long run," Revivi said.

Rosenberg said the issue had provoked the deepest reactions among American Jews since the "Who is a Jew?" furor, and that concern over the conversion bill is greater than that for the peace process.

The reaction, he said, is an emotional one, not necessarily based upon reality. He said he knew the issue is relatively insignificant in the minds of most Israelis, but for American Jews it is a question of whether they are welcome in Israel.

"The question is whether this place is a place which welcomes them and accepts them for what they are," Rosenberg said.

At the same time, Rosenberg questioned the realism of a call by the Conservative and Reform movements to send massive support for their institutions in Israel, in an attempt to build up these movements. For the non-Orthodox movements to become a real force in Israeli society would take more funds and efforts than the movements have at their disposal, Rosenberg said.

"For them to be a real counterforce in Israeli life would take many millions of dollars and much time," he said.

The NIF, he said, is more interested in promoting less conventional expressions of religious pluralism, such as Eilat, the Jerusalem-based institute where religious and secular Jews study together.

"Secular doesn't mean that you aren't interested in Torah, Jewish tradition, and Jewish study," he said.

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An Indonesian businessman, Bob Hasan, tells reporters in Jakarta that the Canadian mining company Bre-X Minerals should be punished for its alleged role in an unprecendented gold scandal.

# Britain wants to boost ties with EU

## Labor government pledges less rivalry

By JEREMY GAUNT

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Tony Blair's "new dawn" broke over Brussels yesterday with his newly elected Labor government pledging to work with, rather than fight its European Union partners.

Promising a "fresh start" after years of antagonism from the former ruling Conservatives over EU integration, Britain's European affairs minister Doug Henderson said the Labor government wanted to draw a line under the past.

"We want to work with you as colleagues in a shared enterprise...not using the language of opponents," he told representatives of the 15-nation bloc meeting in their weekly negotiating session on a new EU treaty.

"Europe, for the new British government, is an opportunity, not a threat," he said. It was the first meeting of a member of the new British government with its EU partners since the Labor Party's landslide victory over the Conservatives on May 1.

Henderson said Britain wanted to make the Union more democ-

atic, more open and more relevant to ordinary people.

In sharp contrast to the ousted Conservatives, he said Labor would end the British opt-out from the EU's Social Chapter, agree to more majority voting in non-sensitive policy areas and support an employment chapter in a new EU treaty to be adopted in mid-June in Amsterdam.

He also hinted at a more flexible British approach in areas such as foreign policy and justice and home affairs.

The overall approach, he told a news conference after meeting his counterparts was to look at each issue on its merit.

"We will reject the dogmatic approach," he said.

But Henderson made clear Britain would maintain its border controls, would block plans by Germany and France to incorporate the Western European Union defence arm into the EU and fight for British interests when needed.

Continental interest in what the Blair government will do on Europe was underlined by a packed news conference, which Henderson joked had a larger attendance than most British

Third Division football games.

Other countries appeared pleased by Britain's new attitude. "He made a very positive impression. What he said...came as a relief, I believe, to most around the table," said Sweden's negotiator, Gunnar Lund.

French European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier said Henderson had given a "positive signal" and that a new treaty could probably now be completed at the Amsterdam summit.

Conservative Party in-fighting over Europe had stalled inter-governmental conference negotiations on the treaty.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook earlier heralded a more cooperative British presence in Europe following the 18 years of Conservative rule in which Britain has often isolated itself from the rest of Europe.

"I'm in favour of getting the best deal for Britain and we very strongly believe we will get a better deal... if we work together with the other states of Europe, not constantly fight them," he told Sky Television.

"We won't allow ourselves to be bounced and we're not going to sold out," he added.

# Dog shot while tracking US separatists

FORT DAVIS (AP) - Five shots were fired yesterday morning at dogs that were unleashed to track two Republic of Texas members who fled into the rugged Davis Mountains after a week-long standoff.

"So far we have not returned any fire and none of our officers have been shot at," Department of Public Safety spokesman Mike Cox said.

One dog was wounded. Helicopters from the state and the US Border Patrol circled the area after the shooting.

"We're on these guys," Cox said. "The DPS is on their trail." Also yesterday, Republic of Texas leader Richard McLaren and his wife were indicted on fed-

eral charges carrying potential penalties of hundreds of years in prison and millions of dollars in fines.

Richard Keyes III, 21, and Mike Matson, 48, fled the militant group's remote hideaway about four hours apart on Saturday before other members surrendered.

Dogs and troopers found more than 60 pipe bombs and 12 gasoline cans in the area, as well as several fortified bunkers.

Cox said the dogs, redbone hounds used as trackers by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, were unleashed yesterday morning near a campsite found in a canyon. Shots were fired within minutes.

# Indonesia vows punishment for gold scam

TORONTO (AP) - The tract of Borneo jungle was touted to eager investors as the biggest gold find of the century. Instead, damning new evidence has exposed the supposed mother lode as one of the most audacious scams in mining history.

A respected independent consulting firm, hired to resolve a dispute over the value of Bre-X Minerals' Indonesian site, said yesterday its tests showed no evidence of any gold worth mining.

The testing company, Strathcona Mineral Services, said the thousands of supposedly promising crushed rock core samples gathered by Bre-X had been tampered with by the addition of gold from other sources.

"The magnitude of the tampering... and resulting falsification of assay values at Busang is of a scale and over a period of time and with a precision that, to our knowledge, is without precedent in the history of mining anywhere in the world," Strathcona said.

Its report did not indicate who was responsi-

ble for the tampering.

Bre-X, a small Calgary exploration company, had been Canada's biggest stock market sensation over the past three years. Reports that it found up to 70 million ounces of gold at its Busang site attracted a horde of investors.

Bre-X hired Strathcona to conduct tests after a prospective partner said its tests indicated the claims of a vast gold deposit were false.

That announcement by New Orleans-based Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold triggered a meltdown of Bre-X stock on the Toronto Stock Exchange. In less than 30 minutes of trading March 27, Bre-X stock plunged by 84 percent, a loss of more than \$2 billion.

Strathcona said only trace amounts of gold were found in the crushed rock samples it tested and there were no samples with gold values worth mining. It also said gold in the Bre-X samples came from a source other than the area they supposedly were collected from.

Stuart Averill, a mining consultant hired by the *The Globe and Mail*, a Toronto-based

newspaper, said the gold particles in the Bre-X samples were characteristic of stream-worn and not bedrock gold, the newspaper reported yesterday.

Reaction to the Strathcona report was swift. Freeport-McMoRan announced yesterday it is withdrawing from the Busang project. And the Toronto Stock Exchange halted trading in Bre-X shares until further notice. A similar freeze was being imposed on the Nasdaq and other exchanges.

In Indonesia, the government vowed yesterday to punish whomever was responsible for the huge scam.

"The lawbreakers must be sanctioned," Mining Minister Ida Bagus Sudjana told reporters.

Sudjana said Indonesian officials were reviewing the Canadian report, copies of which were released in Jakarta yesterday.

"The government, of course, will take strong measures," Sudjana said, without elaborating.

# Mobutu lies low in Kinshasa 'Deep Blue' defeats Kasparov, ties match

KINSHASA - Zaire's embattled President Mobutu Sese Seko returned to the capital Kinshasa yesterday following inconclusive weekend talks with rebel leader Laurent Kabila, an aide said.

Kabila gave Mobutu an ultimatum yesterday; he hands over control of the country in eight days or "perishes with his power."

The veteran leader, who is battling cancer and a whirlwind rebellion, was resting at his presidential villa in Tshatshi military camp on the banks of the Zaire River, the aide said. Mobutu has not been seen in public since returning.

Kabila told a news conference at his Lubumbashi headquarters on yesterday that his forces would chase Mobutu out of Kinshasa if he did not hand over power by the time they arrived.

Mobutu, who has dominated Zaire since seizing power in 1965, offered at the talks on a South African ship in Congo's port of Pointe Noire to hand over power to an elected president.

Kabila insisted his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire should be the transitional authority.

South African President Nelson Mandela, who hosted the meeting, said he would convene fresh talks between Mobutu and Kabila within eight to 10 days to "narrow the gap between the two parties." Kabila said his forces were now less than 60 km

from Kinshasa's Ndjili international airport, which is 25 km east of the capital.

After the first face-to-face meeting with Mobutu on the naval vessel, Kabila said he gave Mobutu eight days to step down. In the meantime, the rebel chief said there would be no cease-fire.

"He has to choose to relinquish power, and he is safeguarded, or he perishes with his power," Kabila told reporters in English a day after his return from face-to-face talks with the ailing Zairian leader.

Meanwhile, Bill Richardson, the US ambassador to the United Nations who was instrumental in setting up the shipboard talks, returned to Lubumbashi yesterday and held talks with Kabila after the news conference.

After the one-hour meeting, Richardson said he had delivered an urgent message to the rebel leader from US President Bill Clinton.

"We stressed our longstanding view that for the benefit of the Zairian people, 1) there should be a peaceful entry into the capital of Kinshasa - a soft landing which avoids violence and chaos; 2) there should be an inclusive transitional government and 3) fair and open elections," Richardson said.

He added that he had been "very, very encouraged by Mr. Kabila's tone of conciliation today."

Kabila denied he had ever agreed to a cease-fire while the negotiating process was going on.

"Who declared a cease-fire? Absolutely not," he said.

NEW YORK - The supercomputer Deep Blue, playing like a human, has defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov to tie their six-game re-match at one victory each.

Deep Blue's victory after 45 moves and 3 hours and 42 minutes of play was the second time in history that a computer program had defeated a reigning world champion in a classical chess format.

The first time was in February 1996 in Philadelphia when the IBM system won the first game of their rivalry, a battle between human and silicon chip that is a test of our relationship with computers. Kasparov recovered to win that match overall.

"This was real chess, not computer chess," Deep Blue's grandmaster US consultant, Joel Benjamin, told hundreds of spectators who watched the second game in a Manhattan office complex. "This is the kind of game that the very best human players

would be proud of." Deep Blue is a 1.95-meter box that can calculate an average of 200 million positions per second, but it demonstrated that it "understood" positional concepts, the experts said.

"I think the computer played an excellent positional game and I was impressed by how it closed all the possible counterplay Kasparov may have dreamed of," said Czech-born grandmaster Lubo Kavalek. "It was incredibly well done."

The match winner will receive \$700,000 and the loser \$400,000. The third game is scheduled for today and the match ends on May 11.

Hundreds of chess enthusiasts paid \$25 each to watch Kasparov face off against Deep Blue. Scattered among them were high-tech hackers eager to see the silicon powerhouse pull off an upset.

The matchup brought together two brainy worlds for a weeklong meeting of the minds. "These are the people who rec-

ognize chess the most, sitting right here," said 12-year-old Samson Benen, a member of the chess team at Manhattan Hunter College Elementary School.

Grandmasters wandered across the stage of the midtown Manhattan Equitable Center's first-floor auditorium, offering analysis and predictions to the 450 people who bought tickets to watch a live video feed of Game 2 of the six-game match.

Thirty-five floors up, Kasparov sweated, paced and scribbled notes in a silent, windowless room, feverishly trying to stay one step ahead of the computer.

At times, the insider lingo flying around downstairs sounded like a foreign language.

"I really recommend the move C5 to C4," Benen said early in the game, speaking to the audience after a moderator offered him a microphone. Heads nodded in agreement. "Rook E2 might not be



Chess champion Gary Kasparov makes his move.

so effective, because the queen can shift over to B7... It's very clear to me that black has to keep this position."

"You could see the computer programmers, and they were all looking for Deep Blue," said Mark Galecki, 31, a computer science graduate student at Rutgers University. "And then there were the chess players."

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A symbolic thaw

The signs are multiplying that the Israeli-Palestinian political dialogue, frozen for months, is about to undergo a spring thaw. Most conspicuous among these signs is of course the meeting today between President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez crossing.

The timing of the renewal of momentum to the stalemated peace process is not coincidental, and is related both to bilateral developments and internal concerns faced by the leaders of the two sides. The talks were originally suspended by the Palestinians in early March, after Israel's decision to go ahead with constructing homes on Har Homa.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Arafat faced pressing domestic issues. Netanyahu's government was preoccupied with the Bar-On Affair. Arafat had to deal with internal issues such as continuing opposition from Islamic fundamentalists and even a teacher's strike in the Palestinian Authority.

Security cooperation is slowly being renewed, boosted by confidence-building measures such as breaking the bloody Tzurif terrorist cell and the ongoing search for the killers of two Israeli women in Wadi Kelt two weeks ago.

The meeting between Arafat and Weizman can only be a step in the direction of renewing talks, not a meeting of substance, but gestures and symbolism count heavily in this process.

apparently rejected a suggestion that Weizman's gesture would again lead to an immediate direct meeting with Netanyahu. Weizman's moves have been well coordinated with Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy. Ross also played a role in bringing about the meeting.

Where matters will develop on the substantive issues once full dialogue is resumed is still an open question. Israel must insist that Arafat give a clear red light on terrorist activities, that maximal security cooperation be achieved and that the Palestinians step up efforts to end all terrorist violence.

If the Palestinian side indeed drops its demand that construction be halted on Har Homa, and even presents this as a major concession — despite the fact the Oslo Agreements do not forbid Israel to build in Jerusalem — it will likely ask instead that some form of freeze on settlement activity be taken.

The package of confidence-building measures being prepared instead by Netanyahu, in response to American requests, includes an initiative to build more housing for Palestinians in Jerusalem and an end to the policy of denying Israeli identity cards to Palestinian Jerusalemites who have resided for years outside the capital.

These moves will certainly be popular among the Palestinian population, but ironically they might not fully please Arafat. Although presented as Israeli concessions, they can also be viewed as strengthening Israel's position in Jerusalem, casting Israel as the sovereign in the city providing housing to its Arab citizens.

Any confidence-building measures the parties bring to the negotiating table can only help get the process started again. Then the real work will begin: dealing with the major issues hanging over the process, including further Israeli redeployments and the expectations of both sides regarding permanent-status talks.

YOU'RE RESIGNING JUST BECAUSE YOU LOST ONE ELECTION?



Syria's deadly secret

Israeli intelligence analysts have expressed concern and amazement at the rapidity and ease with which the Syrians have been able to obtain the know-how to produce VX nerve gas.

Secretly assisted as it has been by Russian chemical experts, the Syrian military R&D and industrial complex known as the Scientific Studies and Research Center — which, despite its apparently innocent scientific front, is responsible for nonconventional weapons development and production — obviously had no trouble getting the required expertise, technology and materials from Russian sources.

Gen. Anatoly Kuntsevich, the senior Russian military chemical expert reported to have assisted Syria, is not just another underpaid Russian officer or scientist looking for an additional source of income.

Until early 1995 when he was dismissed on suspicion of smuggling nerve gas precursors (i.e. materials) to Syria, and fraud, Kuntsevich had been Russian President Yeltsin's personal adviser on chemical disarmament, and practically Russia's highest official authority on the subject.

In April 1991 he and a few of his colleagues were awarded the Lenin Prize by then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for their achievements in the secret development of a new binary chemical warfare agent intended to circumvent Chemical Weapons Convention limitations.

DANIEL LESHEM

interview with the New York Jewish weekly The Forward that shipments to Syria of small amounts of nerve gas components had indeed taken place, although according to him these shipments were only intended for "research purposes" and authorized by the Russian government under previously undisclosed terms of a treaty with Syria.

A former aide to Russian President Yeltsin has been helping Damascus produce nerve gas

were intended for the production of the Soviet/Russian version of the VX nerve agent — code-named Substance 33 or V-gas.

In interviews with The Wall Street Journal and other papers in recent years Russian scientist Vil Mirzayanov (who emigrated to the US after getting into trouble in Russia for divulging state secrets regarding the development and production of new chemical weapons), cautioned the US against believing that Kuntsevich's successors would be any better.

These military deals with Syria and Iran illustrate that, although the Cold War is over, the Russians cannot necessarily be trusted.

and analysts would be well advised to investigate the possibility that, as Kuntsevich claims, the shipment of nerve gas precursors to Syria was part of a secret deal.

Such a deal might have been made in the early '90s or late '80s during a visit to Syria by the then-commander of the Russian Chemical Corps, Gen. Pikalov.

IT SHOULD be noted that in recent years the US discovered that Russia intended to deceive it (as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency) by attempting to sell Iran a gas centrifuge uranium-enrichment facility under a secret annex to the nuclear reactor deal signed between Russia and Iran.

The SS-4 ballistic missile is renowned for the part it played in the Cuban missile crisis in the early 1960s. The Russians are believed to be transferring to Iran technological know-how and components which might help the Iranians develop other long-range ballistic missiles and possibly help them produce the SS-4 as well.

These military deals with Syria and Iran illustrate that, although the Cold War is over, the Russians cannot necessarily be trusted.

The writer is a strategic affairs analyst.

Triple standards

DAVID FORMAN

I recently spent a Friday evening in a Liberal synagogue while on a visit to the US. The centerpiece of the service was the rabbi's sermon, which was dedicated to the latest events in Israel.

Now I am no fan of our prime minister, nor of his policies. Yet whenever I am abroad, I find myself on the defensive when I hear Israel being publicly criticized. Indeed I try to defend the country's actions on their merits, rather than take the easy option of making comparisons with other countries.

Listening to that rabbi berate Israel and its prime minister, I could feel my blood boil. I suspect that many of the character flaws that beset Binyamin Netanyahu are not terribly different than those that plague President Bill Clinton. Bibi has admitted to "moral lapses" in his marriage. And we may find out that the Bar-On Affair is not so different from the Whitewater investigation.

If we claim to be partners with the Diaspora, then we must expect its spiritual representatives to speak out on events that take place here. But as I sat in that synagogue, I was certain that a similar sermon attacking Bill Clinton had never been delivered, nor would it be. To satisfy this intuition, I asked the rabbi directly. He confirmed my thoughts.

So I launched into my usual comparative arguments. This time I did not defend Netanyahu (or Israel). I just pointed out the hypocrisy; that this American rabbi felt comfortable ripping into Israel's prime minister, but remained silent on the failure of Clinton — the darling of liberal Jews — to fulfill so many of his campaign promises, particularly in the area of social reform.

The rabbi had a ready response.

What are the motives of US Jews who attack Israel?

His congregation would never tolerate a similar tirade against "their" president; yet Netanyahu was fair game.

No matter what anyone feels about Netanyahu, the rabbi's statement to me was an expression of Jewish cowardice. Worse, the rabbi sought to claim his liberal credentials in the eyes of his congregation by attacking Israel's prime minister and his policies.

Here the hypocrisy increases. The rabbi could find legitimacy in attacking Netanyahu precisely because there is a measure of identification with him as the leader of the Jewish state. But apparently that identification is not felt so strongly by his congregation that the rabbi felt the need to restrain his attack on Netanyahu in the same way that he has refrained from criticizing Clinton.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WISHFUL THINKING

Sir. — In his article "A pernicious utopian virus" (April 14), Professor Codevilla gives examples of America's endemic faith that the world's problems can be fixed by "talks."

To the examples he adduces, one might add the surprise attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor which forced the US into World War II.

In December 1941, I was a trainee pilot on the British RAF on an American airbase some 8,000 kilometers from Pearl Harbor. Though only 19, I thought that the optimism evaded by the US negotiators was naive in the extreme. When the blow fell on December 7, the shock and panic were palpable.

Admittedly, I had previous experience during the 1930s with this "pernicious virus," as I followed with incredulity and horror the

Western nations' abasement before Hitler, culminating in Neville Chamberlain's "talks" with the German dictator.

Now, as Professor Codevilla points out, we have a home-grown variety in Yossi Beilin, who is quoted as saying: "I want to live in a world where the solution to our existential problem is possible. I have no proof that this is really the case. I am simply not prepared to live in a world where things are unresolvable."

This is simply and plainly wishful thinking. A private individual who bases his actions thereon would be regarded as foolhardy; but a politician and aspiring leader who does so is nothing less than a danger to the existence of his people.

MEIR ABELSON

Jerusalem.

DISAPPOINTED

Sir. — Yosef Goell ("The PM must go now," April 18) thinks that Mr. Netanyahu must go. Amotz Asa-El ("Where did we fail?" April 18) thinks so too. Three or four months ago so did I, but not now.

I voted for Netanyahu, not because I thought he was the best man for the job. And not even because I thought he was more competent than Mr. Peres. I voted for Netanyahu because I didn't want Peres and company to continue thinking that they could use a slim majority to trample the wishes of half the people. I voted for Netanyahu — I voted against arrogance.

Even against the background of my meager expectations, I have been disappointed, and have both written and spoken in favor of bringing down the government. But not this way.

From what we have been told of the (apparently) unnamed "Bar-On Affair," this is more of the same arrogance that I have voted against for the last 20 years, and if the prime minister is brought down, the Labor Party will return to office and act as though it had never been rejected. Those Likud members who have decided to desert ship now are not serving the interests of anyone but themselves (and I am not sure that they are doing even that). I prefer to stand my lot with the likes of Ariel Sharon, who seems to be the only one who can keep his priorities straight.

Save Netanyahu now. Get rid of him later.

ISRAEL PICKHOLOTT

Jerusalem.

INTOLERANT SCHOOL

Sir. — Isn't it ironic that a school which prides itself on tolerance cannot abide the incongruence of having among its pupils the prime minister's son. Hopefully, the child will find acceptance in a less prestigious, but more truly tolerant school.

IAN FAGELSON

Jerusalem.

Causes of Sephardi woe

MELVIN COHEN

works, was in itself an impediment to satisfactory integration and generated profound anger.

The absorption methods and techniques were somewhat lacking in intellectual integrity and practical feasibility. This certainly contributed to a situation which eventually negated the hopes of all those who thought that the "melting pot" approach would solve the problem of integration in

Development towns created a cycle of disadvantage

a relatively short time. But the fact is, it did not and could not.

FROM the time when the disastrous decision was made to establish development towns and populate them with educationally, economically and socially weak immigrants, it should have been obvious that a vicious circle of unemployment, deprivation and poor quality of life was being initiated and would be self-perpetuating.

Over the years successive governments have recognized the dismal situation but none has made a serious effort to alleviate it. This is illustrated by two reports published in 1972.

Prof. N. Litchfield, an internationally renowned town planner, was commissioned by the government to undertake a study of development towns here. He and his team produced a three-volume report giving a detailed analysis of the problem, with proposals for a radical change in policy.

Then a report by Eng. E. Bruckus, a senior planner at the Ministry of the Interior, called A

Study on the Spatial Distribution of a 5 Million Population justified the original master plan, one in which the report's author was himself involved. The Litchfield report was assigned to academic oblivion.

Nobody has ever had the political courage to take the drastic steps necessary to bring about radical change.

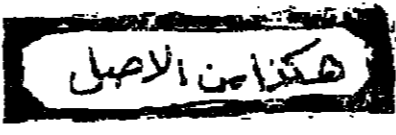
As a result, while the state cannot be absolved from its mistakes in planning and integration policy, the Sephardi community must have the courage to examine the background of its aliyah and apportion at least some of the blame for its members' subjective feelings and extant situation to its own leaders who, by not joining the community in Israel, left it without any effective leadership.

When tempers are raw and emotions at bursting point, it is difficult to rationalize and adopt appropriate responses. However, it is the unquestionable responsibility of the leaders of the Sephardi community and its academic, professional and business elite to make a loud and clear plea for unity rather than raucous calls for civil disobedience and conflict.

When extremism enters the arena, logic, understanding and tolerance are forfeited. In such circumstances, achieving a reasonable level of mutual understanding is doomed to failure.

Only when the Sephardi community admits that not all the blame for its situation can be placed on the shoulders of the Ashkenazim, and when the rest of the population and the government recognize the nature of past mistakes in integration and make serious efforts to rectify them, will the road to a productive dialogue be open.

The writer was a member of the Bar-Lev Committee responsible for trying to solve the problems of development towns in the 1970s.





BUSINESS in brief

James River, Fort Howard in \$5.8b. merger

James River Corp. and Fort Howard Corp. said yesterday they agreed to a \$5.8 billion merger...

EU seeks clear power over air alliances

The European Commission is expected to propose rules tomorrow that would give it clear and undisputed jurisdiction over alliances between EU and non-EU airlines...

Ukraine plans summer Eurobond issue

Cash-strapped Ukraine plans to raise some money on international markets by launching its first-ever Eurobond issue...

Eldan wins contract with Defense Ministry

Car rental company Eldan has won the contract to lease vehicles to the Defense Ministry over the next three years.

MANBAR

Continued from Page 1

In 1991, Manbar contacted Israeli intelligence, but failed to report his dealings with Iran...

Manbar was also charged with obstructing justice. The charge relates to a meeting after his arrest with Yossi Leit...

GESTURES

Continued from Page 1

Ross will investigate "what the parties are willing to do to get the process going." State Department deputy spokesman John Dinger said yesterday.

In contrast to Israeli expectations, a US official said Ross is not bringing a new package based on his visit two weeks ago.

Unflappable by the accusation, Israeli officials commented later that they would not allow the PA head to drive a wedge between the president and the government.

Strauss poised to take over Elite
Merger to dominate food industry once approved by regulators

By ORNA RAVIV and Jerusalem Post Staff

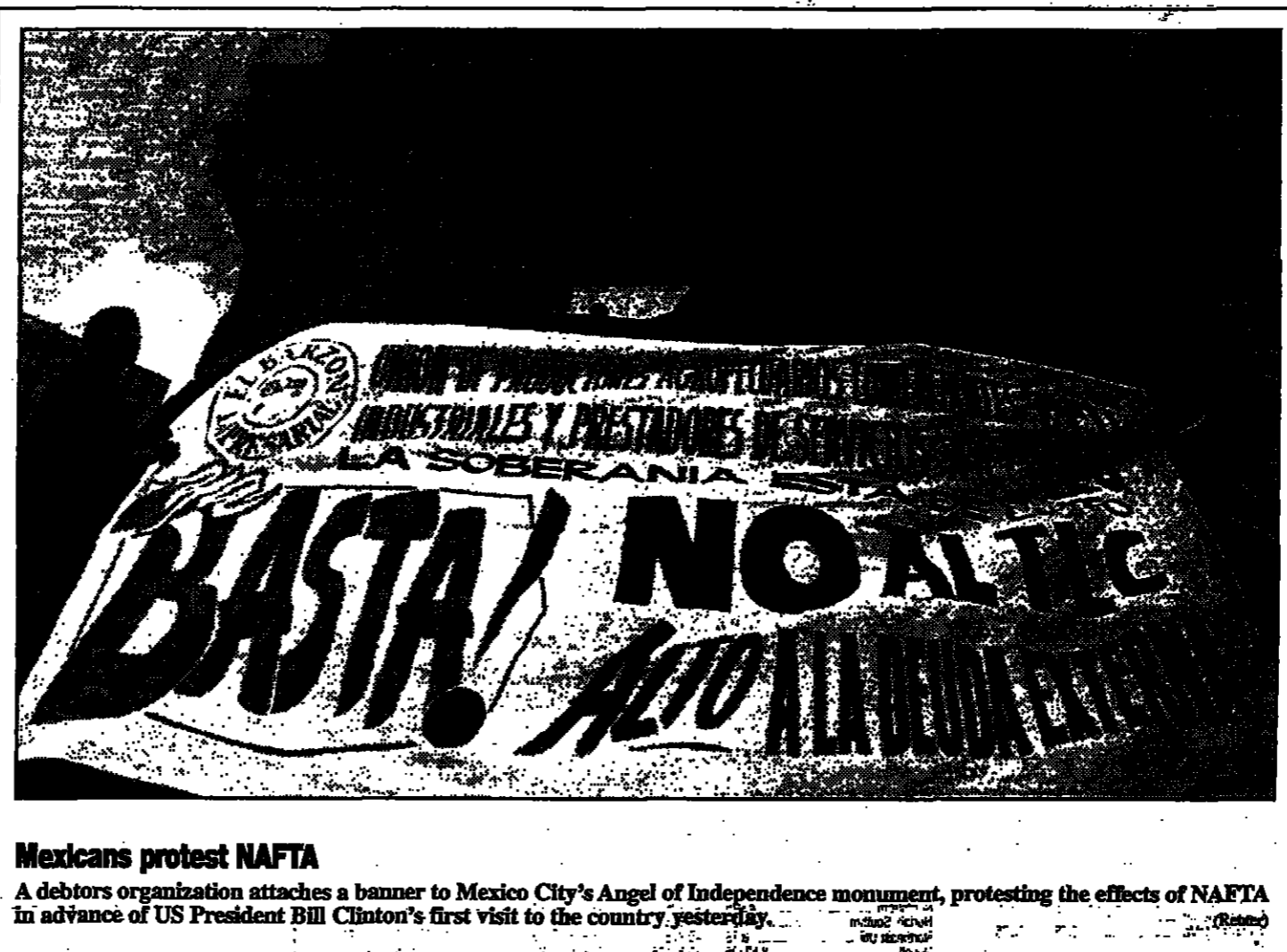
The Strauss group, Israel's second largest dairy producer, is expected to announce this week its takeover of Elite, the nation's largest chocolate and sweets producer...

mmovers last year of \$700m. and \$226m. respectively, are the country's second and fifth largest food producers. The merger is likely to result in a company bigger than Tnuva, the nation's largest food producer.

submitted its comments yesterday. In the proposal, Tadmor stressed a number of limitations he intended to impose on Strauss, relating to competitive practices...

Tadmor are in constant touch, and a meeting to conclude the matter was scheduled for last night. The agreement between the two is expected to be all but sealed today.

The Strauss group currently holds 17.7 percent of Elite's capital share with a 19% controlling share, while the Federman group has 19% of capital share with a 27% controlling share.



Mexicans protest NAFTA

A debtors organization attaches a banner to Mexico City's Angel of Independence monument, protesting the effects of NAFTA in advance of US President Bill Clinton's first visit to the country yesterday.

Eisenberg estate plot thickens with appearance of earlier will

By YOAV YITZHAK and Jerusalem Post Staff

Shoul Eisenberg, the late tycoon whose inheritance has generated a family feud, had originally written an entirely different will, leaving half his estate to his wife Leah and his five daughters...

remaining 20% was to be evenly distributed among another three daughters, and the widow of a fourth. Meanwhile, Leah Eisenberg, who was left in the new will with \$2 million and the family home in Israel, yesterday filed with the Family Affairs Court a claim for half the estate...

and if it is still valid it is not known who holds it. As far as is known, the original will has not yet been presented to the heirs, or even to the administrators of the estate, including lawyer Ram Caspi.

Treasury: No firm figure for budget cut

By DAVID HARRIS

"No figure has been agreed upon for a cut in the state budget," Budget Director David Milgrom said yesterday. Giving his first interview since his appointment in March, Milgrom denied yesterday's media reports...

Lack of funds puts Railway 2000 project in doubt

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel's Railway 2000 project is in doubt because of a lack of funding, according to National Infrastructure Ministry spokesman Ra'anan Gissin.

600m., but so far the Treasury has only budgeted NIS 100m. "In order to fund Railway 2000, we will have to sell company assets," said Gissin.

Among the plans for Railway 2000 are: Opening the Tel Aviv-Bnei Brak-Petah Tikva line to passengers; Doubling the rail line to Nahariya; Launching a passenger service from Tel Aviv to Rishon LeZion.

Sharon hopes that with the help of foreign private investors these plans will also be implemented, more likely after 2000.

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY Jordan Border Frontier Crossing Posts NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC On Thursday, May 8, the Moslem new year, the Jordan River and Arava frontier crossing posts will be closed. These posts will reopen on Friday, May 9.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Table with 4 columns: Currency, 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes Patah (foreign currency deposit rates), Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, and Checks and Transfers.



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table of Israeli shares in New York with columns for company name, last price, and change.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table of Mishtanim leading 100 Tase issues with columns for company name, last price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table of international shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

NEW YORK

Large table of New York market data including various stock prices and changes.

Table of technology and software stocks with columns for company name, last price, and change.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Stock indexes rose yesterday for a fourth day on news of a possible...

Mishtanim 260.25 ▲ 0.33%

By FELICE MARANZ

Key Representative Rates US Dollar . . .NIS 3.4110 + 0.03%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES DJ Industrial . . . 7214.09 +142.39

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

German, French shares boosted by Dow

LONDON (Reuter) - German stocks closed at new record highs yesterday and the Paris bourse ended higher as Wall Street moved ahead again following its storming close last week.

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average shot above 7,200 for the first time yesterday, soaring more than 140 points on a late buying frenzy to complete a speedy recovery from the market's recent tumbles.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow hits new record

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WHERE TO GO

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JERUSALEM

Concluded Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from

TEL AVIV

Morris, which jumped on news The Dow's gain easily wined out

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EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A. 3 Avigdor, 670-6660; Baitam, Salah E-Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-9108; Dar Alawda, Herods Gate, 548-2040; Superpharm Lev Dizengoff, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975. Tel Aviv: Wednesday: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvrol, 548-2040. Tel midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Ramat Minirest Superpharm, 4 Shaal Hamelech, 696-0115. Rafanah-Kfar Savas, Doron, 6 Geula, Rafanah, 771-6084. Netanyahu: Refa-EI, 14 Stampar, 833-1107. Haifa: Kiyat Eleizer, 6 Meyerhoff Sq., 851-1707. Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zavanon, 182 Derech Akko, Krayat Blatik, 878-7818. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Masofit (on Sdot Hagalim), Herzliya Pithul, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0488. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: B'Nai Haim (Internal, obstetrics); Shaar Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Hadassah Ein Karem (pediatrics); Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery). Netanyahu: Lantico.

P A C M E D INVESTMENTS

Possible budget cut spurs market higher

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P A C M E D INVESTMENTS

# SPORTS

in brief

## Banin trying out with Liverpool

National soccer team captain Tal Banin arrived in Liverpool on Monday, and yesterday began a week's trials with the famed Merseyside club. Banin took part in a first, easy training session yesterday in appalling weather conditions as the club prepared for a crucial league fixture with Wimbledon tomorrow. He will remain in England until next Monday by which time Liverpool manager Roy Evans hopes to evaluate the Hapoel Haifa player's suitability for his club. If he signs for the Mighty Reds, Banin will become the third Israeli to play for Liverpool, following in the footsteps of Avi Cohen and Ronnie Rosenthal. *Ori Lewis*

## UK papers: Klinsmann linked with Everton

LONDON (Reuters) - Bayern Munich striker Jurgen Klinsmann will have talks with Everton chairman Peter Johnson within the next 48 hours, British newspapers reported yesterday. According to the reports, Johnson is desperate to rebuild his ailing Premier League club around the German captain who was an immediate success at Tottenham two seasons ago and won England's Player of the Year award. Klinsmann, 32, has made it clear he would love to return to Britain but has refused to make any further comment.

## Larry Brown gets 76ers' coaching job

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - After failing to revive the team with inexperienced leadership, the Philadelphia 76ers yesterday hired one of basketball's great vagabonds as their next coach - Larry Brown. Brown, who is joining his sixth NBA team, will also be head of personnel and reportedly will earn \$25 million over five years. (See earlier story in World of Sport)

## Tony Banks named new British sports minister

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's new Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair appointed maverick left-winger Tony Banks as sports minister yesterday. Banks, who like outgoing Prime Minister John Major is a keen supporter of Chelsea Football Club, is fiercely opposed to fox-hunting and renowned in parliament for his sharp wit.

## Ken Doherty wins world snooker crown

SHEFFIELD (Reuters) - Ken Doherty of Ireland beat Stephen Hendry of Scotland 18-12 in the final to win the World Professional snooker championship last night.

## Russia, US win at world ice hockey championships

HELSINKI (Reuters) - Russia and the US posted upset wins over the reigning Olympic and world champions yesterday opening up the race for medals at the ice hockey world championships. Russia scored once in each of the first two periods then rode the goaltending of Maxim Mikhailovski to a 4-1 win over Sweden. It was the Olympic champions' first loss of the tournament having gone through round-robin play undefeated. Earlier in the day, Ted Donato of the Boston Bruins scored a pair of second period goals as the US held on to beat defending champions, the Czech Republic, 4-3.

# Red Wings take 2-0 series lead with triple OT win

DETROIT (Reuters) - The Russian connection came through big time for the Red Wings Sunday as Detroit grabbed a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinals with a triple overtime victory. Vyacheslav Kozlov took a pass from Vladimir Konstantinov and scored a powerplay goal 91 seconds into the sixth period to give the Red Wings their second consecutive overtime win. Anaheim defenceman J.J. Daigneault drew a penalty 63 seconds into the third overtime for hooking Doug Brown to break up a semi-breakaway. Just 28 seconds later, Konstantinov found Kozlov, who fired a slap shot from the right face-off circle that cleanly beat goaltender Mikhail Shtalenkov, ending the marathon. At New Jersey, Mike Richter post-

# Mac. TA closes in on hoops title

## League champion beats Hap. Jerusalem 90-87 in Game 2 of playoffs

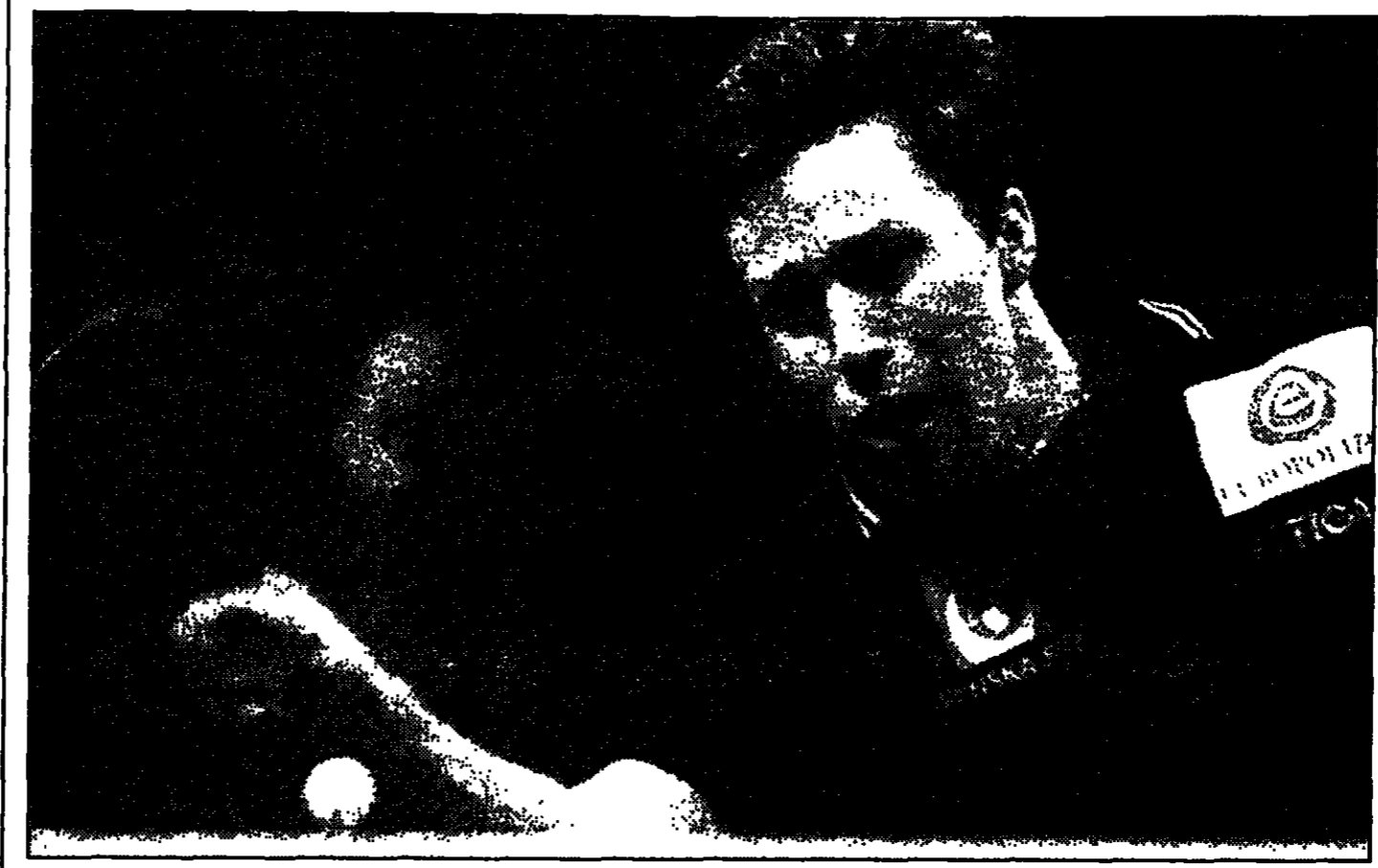
By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Live by the three-pointer, die by the three-pointer. That's more or less what happened to Hapoel Jerusalem last night when Adi Gordon, whose long-range baskets kept his team ahead of Maccabi Tel Aviv for most of the second half, missed one in the final minute, allowing Maccabi to complete a comeback and take game two in the series, 90-87. By the time this series is over there may be only enough players left for a four-on-four game. Buck Johnson joined the growing list of players banished from the Maccabi-Hapoel wars early in the first half after he punched Billy Thompson in the face under the basket. It was Johnson's second ejection in as many games at Malha. He was kicked out for spitting at referee Moshe Biton during his team's last visit to Jerusalem, and will likely miss the rest of the series should it go to five games, since he is already on probation for that incident. Doron Shefa and Brad Leaf had been thrown out of Game One for fighting, and didn't play last night.

In the end, however, it was Jerusalem who missed Thompson more than Maccabi missed Johnson, as Hapoel had nobody inside to stop Randy White. White was the man of the game for Maccabi, scoring 21 points but more importantly grabbing 15 rebounds, six on the offensive boards, to keep Maccabi on the comeback trail late in the game. Few would have believed Maccabi would have needed a comeback at all judging by the first half. While Hapoel had only Gordon to rely on, Maccabi rolled out its secret offensive weapon after Johnson was banished: Constantin Popa. Not only did Popa score nine points himself in the half, he also fed the ball effectively to his teammates, especially Oded Katash. The two were largely responsible for a second-half flurry that put Maccabi up 46-38 at halftime, along with Maccabi's incredible 23-7 advantage on the backboards, largely due to Thompson's absence, recovering from the blow from Johnson and three early personal fouls. White continued his onslaught in the second half, and Maccabi led 58-51 before Jerusalem

unleashed a secret weapon of its own. Reserve forward Pini Levy, who has played little this season, hit a three-pointer that seemed to light a spark among coach Gadi Kedari's charges. Papi Turgeman hit one, then Gordon did, and in no time Jerusalem had tied it at 63. The three continued to run wild, however, as Dan Bingenheimer hit one before Gordon swished another bomb, and suddenly Jerusalem led 69-63 with 8:40 to play, as the crowd of more than 3,000 Jerusalem fans went wild. But the experience Maccabi has garnered in winning 23 straight playoff final series games dating back to May 1993 showed. When the going got tough, the tough got going, led by Katash, who answered immediately with a three of his own. A basket by Borko Radovic brought Maccabi to within one, but then Levy converted a three-point play and Jerusalem was still comfortably ahead. When Motti Daniel added two more foul shots, Jerusalem had an 81-70 cushion, and the celebrations were starting in the stands. But Maccabi wouldn't say die. White kept pounding the boards, Doron Sheffer hit a crucial three-pointer of his own, and Katash hit

from the line, and Zvi Sherf's club was down just 83-80. Jerusalem's poor foul shooting down the stretch and a turnover by Bingenheimer hurt their cause, and two foul shots by White knotted it at 86 with 50 seconds to play. Radovic missed a three, but Motti Daniel missed a lay-up inside and Nadav Henefeld scored on the ensuing fast break to put Maccabi ahead 88-86. Gordon also got infected by the Jerusalem foul-shooting bug, missing one of two at a crucial juncture. But his more important miss was a three-point attempt with just under 20 seconds left that rimmed the basket and ended what otherwise was a valiant effort by the Thompson-less and Doron Shefa-less Jerusalemites. Gordon led Jerusalem with 32, while Katash, who had another fine game, scored 21 for Maccabi. With Johnson scheduled to sit out game three tomorrow night, Jerusalem's chances may improve, but they'll have to find some way of putting a body on White and improving their own foul shooting if they don't want to see Maccabi crowned champions far quicker than many imagined.



## Veteran table tennis champion

Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden captured his second world table tennis singles title eight years after he won his first with a masterful demolition of young Belarussian Vladimir Samsonov yesterday. The 31-year-old Swede, who last won in 1989, mercilessly exposed the limitations of the strapping 21-year-old from Minsk as he reversed a 21-6, 21-7 defeat by Samsonov in the team event last week. After sealing his 21-12, 21-17, 21-13 victory with a winning smash through Samsonov's backhand, Waldner collapsed on the court in disbelief at what he had achieved. In the women's final, Olympic champion Deng Yaping stepped up a gear after losing the opening game and overwhelmed fellow Chinese Wang Nan 12-21, 21-8, 21-11, 21-10 to retain her world title. (Reuters)

# Man. Utd., Rangers titles still on hold

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United's hopes of virtually wrapping up the English League title were dented when they were held to a 3-3 draw by Middlesbrough in a dramatic match at rain-lashed Old Trafford yesterday. Middlesbrough, coached by former Manchester United captain Bryan Robson, led United 1-0 and 3-1 but in the end were glad to settle for a point in their battle to avoid relegation, although it looks likely their Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, who damaged a hamstring, will miss the rest of the season, including the FA Cup final

against Chelsea on May 17. The result leaves United, who also came from two goals down to force a draw at Leicester on Saturday, on 71 points with two home matches to play against Newcastle on Thursday and West Ham next Sunday. It also means that both Liverpool (67 points from 36 games) and Newcastle (63 from 35) could yet pip United, chasing their fourth title in five years. Middlesbrough, who also drew 3-3 at Old Trafford against Chesterfield in the FA Cup three weeks ago, remain second from bottom with 37 points from 36 matches but showed enough spirit and deter-

mination which could yet save them from the drop. In Scotland, Rangers blew a golden chance to seal a record-equalling ninth consecutive Scottish championship yesterday when relegation-threatened Motherwell shocked the Glasgow giants 2-0 at Ibrox. Walter Smith's side needed just one point to take the title and equal arch-rival Celtic's title-winning run from 1966 to 1974. A double strike by Owen Coyle secured the win for Motherwell and Rangers must now gain the point they need from a visit to Dundee United tomorrow or at Hearts on Saturday. Rangers started apprehensively

and after just seven minutes Coyle had silenced the partisan Ibrox crowd. Ian Ross knocked the ball square and Coyle swept his left foot shot beyond goalkeeper Andy Dibble. The Ibrox faithful were stunned when Motherwell made sure of the win through a Coyle penalty seven minutes from time after a clumsy Ian Durrant challenge on Micky Weir in the box. The dejected Rangers players were booted off at the end and it was a sad Ibrox farewell for captain Richard Gough who leaves for Kansas City Wizards in the US Major Soccer League at the end of this season.

# Holocaust Day delays start of Eisenberg Open

By ORI LEWIS

A late decision by tournament director Danny Freiman brought the Eisenberg Jerusalem Open to a halt yesterday morning as the organizers decided to take heed of pleas not to play on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. The first round of the \$50,000 ATP Tour Challenger tennis tournament was due to get under way yesterday but various queries from people prompted Freiman to call a halt to proceedings. "The tournament is a place of work for the players who are professionals. We had hoped to schedule matches only the foreign players (yesterday), but in the end we realized that it made no difference where the players came from, and to avoid hurting people's feelings we preferred to put off play for one day," Freiman told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. Freiman said that the organizers had never encountered such a problem before. "The event is not considered an 'entertainment event' and tickets have not been sold to the public," he said. A re-working of the schedule has meant that all 16 first-round singles matches will be played today, starting at 10:30. Events should get back to normal tomorrow, and matches will return to the original starting time of 13:00. Saturday's final will be played at 10:30. The matches are being held at the Israel Tennis Center in the capital's Katamon Tet neighborhood, entry to the public is free on all days.

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**LOCAL SCENE**

## Ran reaches 140 in ATP Tour rankings

By HEATHER CHAIT

Tennis: The latest ATP Tour rankings, released yesterday have Eyal Ran at 140 in the singles and 131 in the doubles.

Behind Ran in the singles are Oren Motevassel at 194, Eyal Erlich at 211. Raviv Weidenfeld at 253, Nir Weingreen at 260.

Skydiving: If you cast your gaze up today, instead of birds, you'll see humans performing antics in air. The three-day national skydiving championships begin today at Habonim Beach with entrants producing their stunts from 12,000 meters high during sixty seconds. Boaz Goren, from Kibbutz Hagoshrim, is the favorite and is expected to be chosen to represent Israel in the world championships in Turkey in September.

Golf: Basil Kaufman won the A division of the monthly medal tournament at Caesarea with a score of 72. Behind him on 76 were Ran Sandler and Dick Fogelson but Sandler's better back-nine assured him of second place. Eilran Avnaim, whose age equals his 12 handicap, continues to prove he is no fluke. He won the B division with an 84 gross - 72 net. On 73 and second place were Morris Ahadeff, Eli Hassan and Dan Levron. The day's best score of 69 went to Sam Federman in the C division followed by Shmuel Futeran on 71. Walter Rosenthal won the D division with 71, with Meir Iry on 77.

Holes in one are losing their uniqueness in Caesarea. Kobi Hacham scored his on the championship's tee (32 meter eighth hole with Itzik Topelberg and Arich Gressaro on the 167m fourth hole.

Bowls: Ramat Gan is hanging on firmly to the lead in the Wingate "Fives" Tournament with 32 points after five rounds. Ra'anana is in second place with 29 and Kfar Hammaccabiah has 28.

Ramat Gan heads the Fours Competition and shares the lead with Ra'anana in the Trips.

In the Pairs, Ramat Hasharon and the Kfar are sharing the lead and in the singles Ramat Gan, Ra'anana and the Kfar are joint leaders.

Badminton: Reigning national champions Leon Pugach and Svetlana Silberman look on track to add this year's national singles titles to their doubles and mixed doubles honors.

In tomorrow's final at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv (5pm), Pugach will play Paz Ben-Sira and Silberman's opponent will be Esther Kaufman. Besides pairing up for the mixed doubles title, Pugach took the men's doubles with Eli Raymond while Silberman teamed with Shirli Daniel for the women's doubles win.

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**Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis**

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

To some he was a great man maligned. Others despised the man they called Hitler's maestro...



Ronald Harwood gives a fine performance as Wilhelm Furtwängler in 'Talking Sides.'

The Ashdod Chamber Orchestra is on stage at the Eitav Center in Tel Aviv tonight playing music by Holst, Schulhoff and Dvorak...

CIRCUS

HELEN KAYE

The Moscow Circus with great clown Oleg Popov, trapeze fliers and animal acts opens at Malha in Jerusalem today through Friday...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

The Ligeti String Trio from France performs tonight at Ein Hashofet and Thursday at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv (8:30).

Music lovers can enjoy two different events tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum. At 6, Swedish trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger performs a recital with poet Jacques Wup...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash 6:45 Exercise Time 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 The Book of Genesis 8:30 Art Workshop 9:00 Reading 9:45 Programs for the very young...

CHANNEL 2

18:30 The Adventures of Asterix - series of animated films set in the year 50 BCE...

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PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and rows for different TV channels showing program titles and times.

6:30 Nine to Five 7:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno...

6:30 English Cricket: B&H Cup (pt) 7:00 Soccer: UEFA Cup 1:00 Ice Hockey: World Championship...

6:30 Morning Concert 8:35 Handel: Excerpt from Giulio Cesare; Haydn: String quartet in F op 77/2...

6:30 News on the hour 7:30 Window on Europe 8:00 Newsdesk 9:30 Hard Talk...

6:30 News 6:30 Newsdesk 7:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 7:30 Lost in Space...

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TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The Adventures of Asterix have long been the popular European response to American comics. Channel 1 is screening a five-part series...



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Fastened up, but gave way (7) 5 Erudite man or youngster in form (7) 9 Records some tennis matches (7)...

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Fireplace (5) 4 Descend (5) 10 Treeless grassland (7) 11 Concur (5)...

SOLUTIONS

Cryptic crossword solutions including clues like 'Two races in one (4-5)', 'Divulge secrets—through a breach of security? (4,3)', etc.

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE The Crucible 5, Wild You 7, 9:15 RAV-GAT 1-2 = 8574311 The English Patient 6:45, 9:45...

MOVIES

Space Jam 5, 7:30 - Empire of the Senses 10 YEHUDA G.G. GIRL 1-4 Danita's Peas... The Saint 5, 7:30, 10 - PETAH TIKVA...

# Burg: Holocaust funds a justice issue

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

The countries of Europe are "tainted" by the confiscation of Jewish property during the Holocaust that has not been returned, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg charged yesterday. He added that the campaign to obtain the money that belonged to Holocaust victims being kept in Swiss banks is not about the gold.

"It's not the money that interests us, but justice," he said. "Whoever killed should pay the bill, and whoever inherited the money should receive the accounts.

"If it's only one penny, it should come back to Jewish hands; and if it's a hundred billion, it should also come back to Jewish hands. It's not the money that is the core, but economic justice in the last chapter of those dark days of European mankind."

Speaking at a symposium at the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem on the restitution of Jewish assets, Burg also said he believes that plundered Jewish funds were used after the war to rehabilitate countries implicated in the murder of Jews.

One of the panelists was Prof. Jean-Francois Bergier, who was recently appointed by the Swiss government to head a commission of historians investigating Swiss policy and involvement during World War II.

Bergier said the work of his commission is mandated for five years, but that it could take 10 years to find out all the information.

Five years, he said, "is a long period of time, especially for those who are quite impatient. But I consider it a short time, if we really want to do in-depth research and to

fulfill the enormous mission entailed to us."

He commended *Globes* deputy editor Itamar Levin, who received a certificate and award of special merit from the Jewish Agency for exposing and documenting the fight over Jewish assets.

"You deserve the prize, even though some of your statements weren't always that pleasant to our ears. However, we accept them as an opportunity for my country to find its identity once again, its real nature," Bergier told Levin.

This whole episode, he said, has made Swiss people start "to doubt its status, its past, its being." But he added that he does not believe that during the war, "Switzerland was more antisemitic than other surrounding countries. I think it's true that the Swiss were actually less antisemitic, and it was so because the Jewish population in Switzerland wasn't very large, and was quite well integrated."

Burg said that the Jewish people "does not have any fight with the Swiss people. We don't think that all Swiss are evil."

Nevertheless, he pointed out that in the agency archives are over 900 claims against toward Swiss banks and institutions over the years.

"Not one application received a positive response," he said. "Does that have any statistical probability, or is there something else? My answer is that there is something else."

Prof. Yehuda Bauer of the Hebrew University, a Holocaust expert, said the Swiss had turned back 30,000 Jews at their borders, but also that 28,000 had been saved in Switzerland, "and those Jews must thank the Swiss government."



Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg (left) shakes hands with Prof. Jean-Francois Bergier, who heads a commission of historians investigating Swiss policy during World War II, at yesterday's seminar on the restitution of Jewish assets. (Nissan Shorouf)

### WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, rise in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	
	C	F		
American	11	52	16	cloudy
Bahia	18	60	20	clear
Buenos Aires	09	48	19	clear
Cairo	14	57	25	partly
Chicago	09	48	19	rain
Copenhagen	08	43	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	15	59	24	clear
Geneva	15	59	19	rain
Helsinki	02	36	08	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	73	26	rain
London	07	45	20	clear
Madrid	18	64	22	cloudy
London	12	54	18	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	64	22	clear
Moscow	14	57	28	partly
Moscow	00	32	10	clear
Munich	03	37	08	partly
New York	10	50	17	partly
Paris	13	55	22	partly
Rome	13	55	22	clear
Stockholm	09	38	11	rain
Tokyo	17	63	27	clear
Tokyo	08	36	13	clear
Vancouver	12	54	27	clear
Zurich	13	55	20	rain

## Judicial appointments on hold for now

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi late last night bowed to pressure and postponed a meeting of the committee for the appointment of judges scheduled to take place on May 13, the day before a High Court hearing on the Bar-On Affair.

The ministry spokesman said last night that Hanegbi had also acceded to a request from the Israel Bar Association to include 10 additional names as candidates for the vacant positions on the Supreme Court bench and in the magistrates' courts.

Earlier, Knesset Law Committee Chairman MK Shaul Yahalom delivered a letter to Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, requesting that he postpone the meeting. Yahalom said that, in his opinion, "the position of the justice minister [on appointments] could not be independent," since he would be sitting on the committee with three Supreme Court justices, who the

following day plan to hear petitions in which the minister is a party.

Yahalom also reiterated that the committee had not complied with regulations to publish the names of candidates at least 21 days before meeting. Yahalom had earlier appealed to Hanegbi to postpone the meeting, but the minister refused.

Barak reportedly told Yahalom that he would take the objections into consideration, but also did not promise to postpone the meeting.

Meanwhile, one of the two ministers on the committee, Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy, has proposed three additional candidates for the vacant seat on the Supreme Court bench. They are Deputy Attorney-General Nahum Rackover, Hebrew University Law Faculty dean Prof. Brachiyahu Lifschitz, and Tel Aviv District Court Judge Yosef Goldberg.

The committee consists of three Supreme Court justices, two ministers, two MKs, and two Bar Association representatives.

## Laufer to seek details of Tsur's state's witness deal

By RAINE MARCUS

The lawyers of private investigator Ze'ev Laufer, on trial in the media wiretapping case, are expected to ask the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office to lift the publication ban on details of state's witness Ya'acov Tsur's agreement with the prosecution, in an effort to reveal intermediaries in the deal.

During a cross-examination of Tsur in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday by Laufer's lawyers, Yisrael Tsur and Avraham Richman, it was revealed that the former used the services of more than one intermediary when he decided to turn state's witness

against *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi and private investigators, including Laufer.

Laufer was paid \$600,000 by *Ma'ariv*, after receiving the necessary authorization from police and the district attorney, to give police evidence against the daily's rival, *Yediot Aharonot*.

Tsur is expected to give evidence against several defendants in the media wiretapping case, and began testifying against Laufer some two months ago.

Yesterday, the lawyers began their cross-examination, attempting to undermine Tsur's credibility and his motives for turning state's witness. Tsur received \$200,000 for his evidence, and testified that his main

reason was not the money, but that he felt threatened.

Previously only one intermediary between Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and Tsur was mentioned - Rishpon businessman Aharon Ginzberg - but yesterday Tsur confirmed that other intermediaries were involved. The district attorney's representative said that a confidentiality clause is in effect and their names could not be published.

Under cross-examination, Tsur said he did not remember certain facts concerning the agreement, its contents, and details of the police team that investigated him. The trial continues tomorrow.

## Egypt files new charge against Azzam

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt's state security prosecutors yesterday brought a new charge carrying the death penalty

against Israeli textile worker Azzam Azzam, on trial for spying against Egypt, security sources said.

They said the new charge was that Azzam had made a criminal agreement with an Egyptian and two Israeli women to spy for the Mossad.

His previous charge was that he assisted in economic espionage by giving women's underwear inscribed with invisible ink from Mossad to the Egyptian. It carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison with hard labor.

Azzam went on trial in Cairo with alleged Egyptian accomplice Emad Abdel Hamid Ismail on April 24. Both men denied they had spied against Egypt. The trial is to resume on May 18.

The other defendants in the case are Zahra Youssef Greiss

and Mona Ahmed Shawahna, who are not in Egypt. Like Azzam, they belong to Israel's Druse community.

The sources said Azzam's new charge was read to him in his prison cell. It said he had "made a criminal agreement" with the other three defendants to "carry out the crime of spying for Israel and that he presented a sum of money in return for this espionage."

It was not clear to whom Azzam was accused of giving the money.

Prosecutors said at the trial that Greiss gave Ismail \$650 when he was recruited and Shawahna offered to pay him \$1,000 a month if he helped the Mossad.

## Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, king of hearts, king of diamonds, and 7 of clubs.

## Yamit evacuation to be marked tonight

By MARGOT DUDKOVITCH

A ceremony commemorating the evacuation of Yamit 15 years ago will take place tonight at the heder yeshiva in Neveh Dekalim, in Gush Katif.

"According to the Hebrew date it is 15 years since settlers were ousted from Yamit," said yeshiva head Tzahi Weiss, one of the organizers of the ceremony. He noted that the yeshiva was uprooted from Yamit and rebuilt at Neveh Dekalim.

Weiss said former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir was invited to attend the ceremony as well as MKs, public figures, and settlers from Gush Katif.

Weiss said Shamir was invited, since at the time of the evacuation he was Knesset Speaker and voiced against it. "He has always stood firmly according to his beliefs," he added.

The importance of the ceremony, said Weiss, is to remind the public of the evacuation and also show the positive side of Gush Katif and the settlements. "New families are constantly being received in settlements in the area. Many yeshiva students apply to study here at the yeshiva," he said.

In addition, guests will be shown footage of the evacuation and photographs will be on display.

## Cellcom recommends using headsets to cut health risks

By JUDY SEGEL

Cellcom advises those fearful of health damage from cellular phones to buy a headset that allows use while keeping the phone in one's bag or pocket.

Cellcom spokesman Ilan Bachar said it is interested in ensuring the health of subscribers, and only imports phones that meet the strictest standards in the US and Europe.

"The company," he said, "also closely follows scientific research on cell phones around the world. 'Until now, research studies have shown no danger to health. However, if anyone is still concerned about alleged health risks, they can distance themselves from the phone by using a personal speaker system, which costs NIS 230 for Erickson models and NIS 299 for Nokia models,' Bachar said.

He was commenting on *The Jerusalem Post's* report on Friday of what some experts called "the first serious piece of lab research" to link electromagnetic radiation from the use of cellular phones with cancer in mice.

The *Post* article, which was widely cited and caused concern in cellular phone companies, impelled Health Ministry officials to call health authorities in

Australia, Britain, and the US for more details. The study, conducted by Dr. Michael Repacholi at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in South Australia, and published in *Radiation Research*, found that exposure to functioning cellular phones doubled the risk of lymphatic cancer in mice.

Dr. Alan Harris of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne said the research was "important because at present, there was no convincing evidence that radio fields - in contrast to X-ray and gamma rays, ultraviolet and atomic radiation - can directly cause the changes in genes responsible for cancer development."

The only possible biological effect that cellular phone companies have admitted so far is localized body heating from continuous contact between the head and the phone. Health experts concerned about the findings argue that the 18-month experiment actually raises more questions about the potential for cell phone radiation's effects on people near-by (passive exposures) than the user himself. The experiment was conducted in the "far field," at distances greater from the mice than the cell phone is normally held from the head. If this is the case, a remote earphone speaker would

be of little use.

In close proximity, most of the energy transfers from the handset to the head by induction rather than just radiation. So the mice, which were further away from the antenna than phone users heads are, were exposed to much less localized energy than a human brain or eye would experience.

Near-field effects are thought to be substantially different from far field, although the biomedical implications are not clear. Other researchers have claimed that mice and humans absorb energy from these fields differently, thus it is impossible to conclude from a single study that humans are endangered by cellular phone use. Those on both sides of the issue advocated additional research.

Commenting on the Royal Adelaide Hospital study, the Australian government issued a statement trying to allay fears of a link between cancer and cellular phone use. "Based on current knowledge, any risk attached to [their] use is minimal compared with the everyday risks faced from, for example, sunlight [meaning skin cancer] or driving our cars," the government spokesman said. "We don't know of any one person anywhere in the world who has died as a result of using a mobile phone."

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